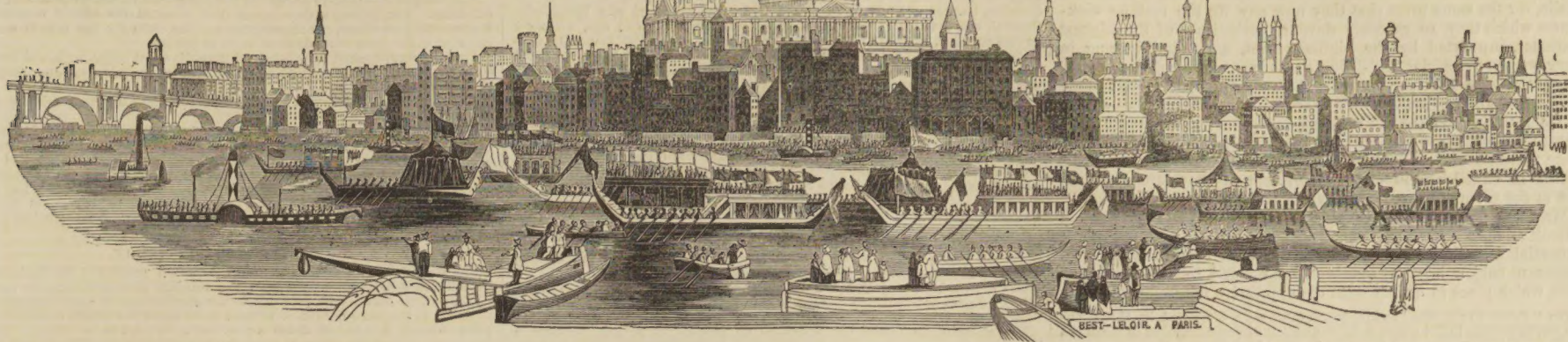


THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS



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FOR THE WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1850.

[SIXPENCE.]

THE TAXES ON LITERATURE, EDUCATION, AND RELIGION.

WE rejoice to see the symptoms and proofs of a vigorous agitation for the removal of the taxes on knowledge. This subject has been suffered to sleep since the year 1836, when a mischievous compromise was made by the influential but short-sighted parties who had charge of it. In the interval the new system has had time to develop itself, and the result has proved that no mere reduction of the excise duty upon paper, or of the stamp duty upon newspapers, can effect any good. Nothing but their total abolition will suffice. This was the concession originally required, and which the Government of 1836, as it since turns out, were by no means indisposed to grant, if the agitators for a free press, a free-trade in paper, and for untaxed knowledge and opinion, had not mismanaged the business with which they were entrusted, and expressed themselves willing to accept of an instalment when they might have exacted the whole. Lord Melbourne's Government took them at their word; the excise duty upon paper was reduced to 1½d. per lb., and the stamp upon newspapers to 1d. Literature received a temporary revival. Publishers, buoyed up with hopes, and incited by the moral glory as well as by the pecuniary reward of such a career, entered upon large and important undertakings. Men like Mr. C. Knight, and the Messrs. Chambers of Edinburgh, the great teachers of the people, the benefactors of their countrymen, and the most valuable of all possible friends of a free Government, and of the cause of peace, order, and social well-being, thought they could educate the people in moral, social, political, and general knowledge by means of cheap and excellent publications. But they did not know the difficulties with which they would have to contend. The exciseman proved their evil genius. The Government, whose best friends they were, was their relentless foe; and the State, interested in an intelligent, well-educated, moral, and religious people, levied such a tax upon the essential vehicle for the conveyance of knowledge,

PAPER, as to prohibit intelligence and the means of education from being carried into the very lowest strata of society, to vivify and exalt the whole. The hopes of the great publishers proved fallacious. Literature remained to a great extent the luxury of the upper and middle classes: it was not allowed to descend to the poor. The reduced tax was as fatal to the success of such magnificent undertakings, as the original one. A tax can but destroy any particular trade, pursuit, or profession; and if a small tax produces such a result, there is, in reality, no difference between a small tax and a great one. The burden left upon the back of literature was, if less heavy, not a whit less inimical to its extension and progression. The angel of knowledge was formerly fastened by a chain; Lord Melbourne's Government substituted a rope. The result was the same; she could not fly in either case. It is the object of those who, after an experiment of fourteen years, have again determined to stir in this matter, to undo this last rope, and set literature entirely free. We wish them success in their effort, and trust that they will listen to no compromise, and never relax in their efforts until the Government, willing or unwilling, emancipates general knowledge from the exciseman, and political knowledge both from the exciseman and from the fiscal brand or stamp which renders the newspaper a huge monopoly, in which none but the largest capitalists do or can hope to succeed.

The subject is a very wide one, and divides itself into three branches. The first is the excise duty upon paper, which affects all books, except bibles and prayer-books; and all newspapers and periodicals whatsoever; and all paper that is used either for printing, writing, drawing, the decoration of rooms, or the packing of retail or wholesale merchandise. The reader will understand at a glance how vast a number of industrious persons, in a multiplicity of very dissimilar trades and professions, are affected by this tax. Amongst others may be cited the rag merchant, the paper manufacturer, the machinist, the type founder, the compositor, the pressman, the bookbinder, the stitcher, the ink manufacturer, the gilder, the

reporter, the editor, the author, the engraver, the printseller, the wholesale and retail dealers in paper, the wholesale and retail dealers in printed books; and, lastly, all our great exporting merchants who use paper for packages, and all the petty retail dealers in every city, town, and village of the empire, who use paper to enwrap their commodities. We might include in the list every person who buys a book or periodical, and every one who writes a letter of business or affection. The second branch of the subject is the stamp duty upon newspapers, a matter of less importance than the first, but by no means unimportant in itself, when considered with reference to the character, usefulness, influence, and ability of the political press. The third branch of the subject is the advertisement duty, a tax levied as if for no other purpose than to form, in conjunction with the two others, so intolerable a burden upon the enterprise and energy of all who wish to establish newspapers, as to keep out of the field, or crush all except such few as may be supported by enormous capital and resources.

Our space will not allow us to treat of more than one of these subjects at a time. We shall begin with the excise duty upon paper, as not only the most important of the three, but as the one great source and fountain of the evil, of which all the purveyors of good and wholesome, as well as cheap, education and literature have to complain. Were this evil removed, the remaining two might be borne, as all literature, except political literature, would, in that case, be free. If we could not have politics for the million, we should, at all events, have morals for the million—educational books and tracts for the million—science for the million—religious essays and sermons for the million—the master-pieces of wit, humour, and pathos for the million—every kind of literature for the million, that tends to refine the mind, to polish the manners, to inculcate industry and order—and every quality, in fact, that forms the distinction between the civilized man and the savage. Under the present system, it is the necessity of the people to have cheap literature of some kind. They will have it; and, as they cannot buy



STAG HUNT IN THE NEW-ROAD ON TUESDAY.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)

the good, they are contented with the bad. As every one knows who has paid the slightest attention to the state of the cheap literary market, they have it in the shape of moral poison. They buy obscene and disgusting periodicals, or the no less disgusting, and, if possible, more mischievous filth of the flash novel. These productions are all printed upon the worst possible paper, and sold at a price which brings them within the reach of the poorest. With a free manufacture of paper, all these abominations would disappear. Men like the Messrs. Chambers and Mr. Charles Knight, and many others, would step into the arena, and provide the public, for the same price that they now pay for the reeking wickedness which they so greedily devour, periodicals of the highest character, supported by the highest talent, and administering in every way to the social well-being and advancement of the people.

It is true that 1½d. per lb. upon the paper used in a book does not, at first glance, seem a very overwhelming impost, but a little consideration shows the tax to be an enormous one upon the only literature that the great bulk of the people can afford to buy. Were there no excise duty upon paper, periodicals of the highest degree of excellence in every department of literature could be sold at the price at present charged for blank paper.

Mr. Charles Knight, in his valuable pamphlet, "The Struggles of a Book against excessive Taxation," which we recommend to the impartial attention of those who really wish to understand this important subject in all its bearings, has entered into some calculations which place in a clear light the oppressive nature of this tax.

The "Penny Cyclopædia" and its Supplement were completed in 1846. The two works contain 15,764 pages, and the quantity of paper required to produce a single copy is two reams, each weighing 35 lbs. At the period of its completion, the entire quantity of paper consumed in the work was 50,000 reams, the total weight of which amounted to 1,750,000 lbs. Of this weight, 20,000 reams, or 700,000 lbs., paid the Excise duty of 3d. per lb., amounting to £8750; and the remaining 30,000 reams paid the reduced duty of 1½d. per lb. (commencing in 1837) upon 1,050,000 lbs., amounting to £6562. The total duty paid up to the completion of the "Cyclopædia," in 1846, was £15,312. Since that period, 2000 reams of paper have been used in reprinting, to correct the inequalities of the stock, making an addition of 70,000 lbs., excised at £437. But, further—the wrappers for the monthly parts have used 1500 reams of paper, taxed at £500; and the milled boards employed in binding the volumes have been also taxed about £300. The total payment to the Excise by the "Penny Cyclopædia" has been £16,500.

It is well known, he adds, that the amount of a duty upon a raw material by no means represents the amount of the charge which it entails upon the manufacturer. Mr. MacCulloch and Mr. Porter rightly state that the price for a ream of one particular sort of printing paper was, in 1831, 24s.; in 1843, 15s. 6d. From 1833 to 1837, the price of a ream of "Penny Cyclopædia" paper was 33s.; from 1838 to 1846, it was 24s. The difference in price was 9s. per ream; the amount of reduced duty was 4s. 4½d. The paper-makers and the stationers doubled the tax. But even at the reduced rate it has been satisfactorily shown by my fellow-labourers, the Messrs. Chambers, that the duty enters one-third into price. Unquestionably, if the duty were now removed, I could buy a ream of similar paper for 17s. The tax preventing competition, and giving undue advantages to capitalists, had the effect of making me pay for my paper, from 1833 to 1837, 16s. a ream more than the price of untaxed paper would be, or £16,000 upon 20,000 reams; and from 1838 to 1846, 7s. per ream more than I should otherwise have paid; which, upon 30,000 reams, amounts to £10,500. The tax, therefore, operated as a burthen upon my publication to the extent of £26,500, during its long and difficult progress to completion. The paper since used for reprints, and the paper for wrappers, has been raised in price £2500 by the same process.

The struggles of one book against excessive taxation are, up to this point, to be measured by a burthen of £29,000.

Nor is this the whole amount of the burden. Interest and compound interest upon unsold stock, every pound weight of which must have paid duty to the Government, must be taken into the calculation. This item, in the case of Mr. Knight's publications, is estimated by him at £3000 more, making a total of £32,000 levied, not to the enrichment of the State, but to the impoverishment if not ruin of enterprise, and the loss of the public.

There are various other modes in which this apparently small, but, in reality, very onerous tax, operates to the enhancement of the price of books and periodicals. For instance, could the paper-maker shut his door against the exciseman, he might introduce many improvements into his manufacture which he is now prevented from employing. In the paper-mill, too, it is of obvious importance, when the unwelcome visitant appears to levy the tax, that the paper should not be heavy with moisture. It is consequently made as dry as possible. But, as is well known, paper must be damped before it is fit to be printed upon. Here there is a double process, first of drying and then of damping, each of which is attended with expense, which expense, as a matter of course, is added to the price of the material before it finds its way into consumption. Then, again, the manufacture of paper is made a monopoly by the excise restrictions upon it, which keep out of the trade all except large capitalists, as happens also in the soap manufacture and in distilleries, that are similarly afflicted with that expensive public servant, the Office of Excise. There never was a monopolist, and there never will be one, who did not make the public pay him a percentage considerably higher than that levied by the State; and this also has to be added to the various charges upon paper. We are said to be a free people; but surely we have something yet to do before we can be fully entitled to that designation. Free as we are, we are not free to teach the multitude. We are, practically, not free to teach our children to read; and not free to put good and cheap literature into the hands of our adult population. Our people are, in fact, brutalised by our Government, because our Government is unwise enough to tax articles that never ought to be taxed, and blind enough to be unaware that any tax which prevents or diminishes employment, instead of money gained, is money lost, and that every farthing it may receive for taxing knowledge it has to expend again in poor-rates and prison rates, and in all the multifarious outlay consequent upon increasing pauperism and criminality.

We must reserve for future papers the consideration of the Newspaper Stamp Duty, and the Duty upon Advertisements. We would, in the meantime, impress upon the attention of all interested the paramount importance of throwing open the paper manufacture, and freeing it from duty. That reform lies at the root of the rest; and we trust that all whose business it is to write or sell books, and all whose pleasure it is to read them, will join their efforts to those of the men who have stirred in this peaceful agitation. In the troubles that are preparing for this or the coming generation, woe to the State whose population shall be ignorant.

STAG HUNT EXTRAORDINARY.

EFFING and ASCOT have had their glories pictured in our Journal; but neither of these Hunts ever presented more extraordinary sport than was witnessed in Camden Town and the New-road, on Tuesday last—that of "a real Stag-Hunt" in this thickly-peopled quarter of the metropolis. About two o'clock in the afternoon, the inhabitants of Camden Town were astonished at the unusual sight of a fine stag, or red deer, running at full speed in the direction of Somers Town, with five hounds in full cry at his heels, followed by one solitary rider and the huntsman, on horses that had evidently done a hard day's work. The meet of Mr. Benn's hounds had been held at Hendon, whence, in a circuitous route, the stag broke away for Finchley Common, skirting Goldfalls Wood, and passed Highgate, on to the metropolis. He entered Somers Town by Brewer-street, and through Skinner-street, Phillips's-buildings, and Wilstead-street, finally crossing the New-road, with the five hounds close at his haunches. He here made a bolt at the iron gate, leading through Mableton-place into Burton-crescent; but, being headed by two of the hounds, and terrified at the number of vehicles passing the New-road, he dashed in at the gate in front of the house of Messrs. Prior's stove grate manufactory, whence, seeing the shop door open, he darted into the house, and was there speedily secured. The strange scene attracted some thousands of persons, and it required the assistance of about a dozen policemen to preserve Mr. Prior's railings from destruction. Such was the curiosity excited on the occasion, that numbers of women and children paid a penny each for admission to the yard to see so strange a visitor. The run, from first to last, was over not less than thirty-five miles of ground; and, although a strong field had mastered in the morning, dogs and horses were all fairly beaten, except the small remnant who came up at the take. The stag was carted off from his resting-place about six o'clock, amid the cheers of many hundreds of spectators.

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL NEWS.

FRANCE.

The riotous display in Paris last week has been followed by a corresponding lull, and all is as tranquil, dull, and uninteresting as in any peace-loving common-sense city in existence. For lack of unpleasant facts, however, the Parisians have taken to vexatious forebodings, grounded on alleged intention on the part of the Government to make an important modification of the military commands into which France is divided. At present France consists of seventeen military divisions, each under the command of a general officer, who makes his reports to the Minister of War direct. It is now proposed that these seventeen divisions shall be abolished, and that France shall be formed into either four or five divisions, each of which is to be placed under the command of a Lieutenant-General, who is to have an almost unlimited command, and who can, whenever he sees occasion, place the whole of his division under martial law. The divisions are to be called according to their positions—north, south, east, west, and centre. These great divisions are to be sub-divided, and placed under the command of Major-Generals, who will make their reports to the Lieutenant-Generals in command. On the slightest appearance of disorder, or even the "slightest indication of agitation," in any one of these five divisions, the Lieutenant-General in command can immediately declare it in a state of siege.

Some appointments have been made which are stated to be in accordance with this plan; viz. General de Castellane has been appointed Commander-in-Chief of the 12th military division (Bordeaux), and the 14th and 15th divisions (Nantes and Rennes) are also placed under his command. General Rostaing is appointed to the command of the 8th, 9th, and 10th military divisions (Toulouse, Perpignan, and Montpellier); and the 6th military division (Besançon) is added to the 5th military division (Lyons), and left under the command of General Gemaun. In other respects the journals are occupied with the approaching elections. The clubs meet daily to talk over the candidates they shall propose, but nothing definitive as to the persons selected has yet been determined upon.

The advices from the provinces are somewhat more favourable. The agitation has in a degree subsided, and it is thought will gradually disappear.

M. Proudhon still remains in solitary imprisonment. The editor of *La Liberté* was convicted on Monday of having published a libel upon the Government. He was sentenced to imprisonment for one year, and to a fine of 4000f.

Ministers have determined to send extraordinary commissioners to different parts of the country, investing them with large discretionary powers, with the view of repressing Socialism.

Accounts from the departments mention that the inundations caused by the melting of the snow, and which occasioned several disasters, are decreasing.

AUSTRIA.

Accounts from Vienna, to the 8th inst., state that the Emperor, who had been severely indisposed for some days—the effects of a cold—was still confined to his bed, though convalescent. The Minister of Finance had submitted to his Majesty a report on the state of the loan of 4½ per cent., from which it appeared that the sum collected in Austria was 67,403,800fl., and abroad 3,814,800fl., making a total of 71,218,600fl. Another state paper presented to his Majesty sets forth that the total force of the Russian army which entered the states of Austria for the Hungarian campaign was 256,400 men, and 90,000 horses and cavalry and mounted artillery.

From all parts of the country sad accounts were received of inundations. At Presburg the water had attained a greater height than was known in the memory of man. The whole city and environs were one vast sheet of water, and the streets were traversed by boats.

TURKEY.

According to the most recent accounts from Constantinople, the Austrian Minister had not yet resumed diplomatic relations with the Porte: and it is with some probability stated that this delay was occasioned by the intrigues of Russia, who wished to keep the public mind still uncertain and agitated. Instead of diminishing the armed forces in Wallachia and Moldavia, Russia was adding considerably to her army in these provinces; and this continuance and increase of the military forces of the Czar in the principalities, was accounted for by the alleged existence of a plan in contemplation on the part of the Russian Government for forcing the Wallachians and Moldavians into insurrection, and proclaiming their independence, in order, under pretext of intervention, to become master of that territory, and incorporate it in the Russian empire. In such a case, the Czar will, no doubt, be able to justify the presence of his troops, as also this extension of his dominions.

GREECE.

Accounts from Athens to the 31st January, received *via* Malta, announce the occupation, by British marines, of the islands of Cabrera? (probably Cervi) and Sapienza, and the landing of ordnance thereon for fortifying the same. The British war-steamers cruising in the Archipelago had detained and sent in to those islands a number of Greek coasting craft, either in ballast or with cargoes, bound to Greek ports, the better to protect against piracy or a surprise upon the British fleet by *brulottes*, or fire-ships, for which description of warfare the Greeks have ever been famous.

The French fleet had unexpectedly shaped its course for the Dardanelles, and was there on the 26th January.

SWITZERLAND.

The Federal Council of Switzerland has issued a new circular to the Governments of the Cantons, on the execution of the circular of the 19th of November last, relative to certain refugees whose expulsion was demanded by the foreign powers. This document, which is signed by M. Druet, the President of the Confederation, after stating the purport of the circular, proceeds to name the persons to whom it more particularly refers:—"These refugees (it says) are Messrs. Fries, member of the Provisional Government of the Palatinate; Richter, De Rotteck, Thiebault, and Torrent, members of the committee of Baden; Ganter and Kuchling, ex-commissioners; Sznalde, or Schneider, and Raquetel, military chiefs; and to these are added, Messrs. Werner, formerly dictator, and Lowenfels, mentioned in the decree of the 16th of July. In consequence, we invite you, faithful and dear confederates—1. To ascertain as soon as possible if the foreigners above-named, or any of them, are in your canton. 2. In case they should happen to be there, to invite them to make their preparations for immediately leaving Switzerland, to cause to be transmitted without delay to our department of Justice and Police a personal description of those refugees, and to make known to it to what country they wish to proceed, and by what place they propose to enter France on their way to their destination. 3. To make us a report, between this and the 20th of February at the latest, of the result of the investigations of your authorities, whether the refugees referred to, or any of them, be in your canton or not, as also on other measures you may have ordered in execution of the present circular, and of that of the 19th of November, 1849. As regards the other refugee leaders named in the circular of the 19th of November, whose residence is known to you, you are invited to take measures calculated to hasten the departure from Switzerland of such of them as are still in your canton. You will also be kind enough to make us, before the 20th of the present month, a report on the result of the measures which you may have prescribed in consequence of this invitation."

This question of the refugees appears to be fraught with troublesome consequences to Switzerland. It appears that Prussia and Austria have informed the Federal Government that, in order to reduce their armies, they are forced to occupy Switzerland, and expel the whole of the refugees, who make it the theatre of agitation. These two Powers declare they have come to an understanding with Russia as to the occupation of the German cantons; that if France wish to occupy the French cantons she can do so; if not, these Powers will do it. It is said that Piedmont is also agreed with them respecting the Italian cantons. The refugees are better received in the canton of Vaud than anywhere else.

UNITED STATES.

Advices from New York to the 25th ult. have been received, but they contain no news of interest.

A resolution had been introduced into Congress to consider the propriety of presenting some suitable memorial to Captain Cook for his gallant conduct in rescuing the passengers on board the *Caleb Grimsban*.

The bill in relation to the re-capture of fugitive slaves was also under consideration. The case of Colonel Webb had been postponed till some action was had on the Austrian resolutions of General Cass. It was to be taken up on the 23rd ultimo.

The Hungarian refugees had dined with General Taylor on the 24th. No further intelligence from California had been received.

IMPORTANT DISCOVERY.—Mr. Smith, of Deanston, in Gloucestershire, has made an important discovery in the treatment of the fleeces of sheep, whereby the fleece of the living animal is rendered repellent of water by a simple and cheap process; so that the sheep are defended from the pernicious effect of wet, whilst the natural emanations from the body remain unchecked, and the growth and quality of the wool are improved. The effect of this water-proofing has been practically tested on some of the most exposed sheep-walks in Scotland, and with singular success. This process, it is expected, will effectually supersede the laying with tar, and butter, and other salves, at one-third of the cost, whilst the wool will be preserved white and pure. Though the laying or salving of sheep hitherto has been applied chiefly to flocks on mountainous and exposed situations only, it is believed that the new mode of treatment will be found beneficial to flocks on the most sheltered and southern pastures, and that it will go far to prevent or mitigate that destructive disease—the rot, which is neither more nor less than dysentery, caused by the continuance of wet weather, whereby the fleeces of the sheep become soaked with rain, and produce the same effect as is produced on man by wet clothing. It is also presumed that this mode of treatment will lead to the successful introduction of the Spanish sheep and the Alpaca, which are known to have suffered from the prevalence of wet weather in this country.

The remains of the persons who were unfortunately drowned off the pier at Sunderland, in endeavouring to save the crew of a small vessel in danger, were interred in Sunderland churchyard on Sunday afternoon last. The funeral of Mr. Coulson Douglas was followed by a number of shipowners and master mariners, by whom he was much respected. The funerals of Robert Chisholm and Robert Reay were followed by a procession of seamen. The pall on the coffin was partially covered with a union jack. An immense number of persons crowded the churchyard.

The amount of Exchequer-bills authorised to be raised, charged on the supplies of 1850, is £17,786,700. From this sum there is to be deducted Exchequer-bills paid off in money in 1849, £28,000, leaving the amount to be provided in the present year £17,758,700.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—MONDAY.

Their Lordships met at five o'clock.

THE AFFAIRS OF GREECE.

Lord STANLEY inquired when the papers relative to the dispute in Greece would be produced; and if it were true that the French Government had offered its mediation to relieve us from our rash and hasty proceedings at Athens; and if the proffered mediation had been accepted: likewise, if the mediation extended to the demands made for territorial restoration as well as for pecuniary compensation for injuries done to individuals.

The Marquis of LANSDOWNE replied that the papers should be produced without delay. Her Majesty's Government had accepted the offered mediation of France—its good offices, not its arbitration. The claim for the islands was not included in the categorical demand made at Athens.

Lord STANLEY desired to be informed if, in the event of the territorial question being included, the Government would approve of any measure for taking possession of the islands.

The Marquis of LANSDOWNE had no reason to believe that any such step would be taken.

Lord BROUGHAM asked, if a vessel of war had not been taken possession of.

The Marquis of LANSDOWNE replied not. The vessel had been only detained. The Earl of ABERDEEN was glad that the mediation of France had been accepted by the Government, but he regretted that it had not been accepted by our agents at Athens when first offered there. He thought that we had acted precipitately in this matter. We had been all along up to the present trying to counteract the influence of France in Greece, but by our late conduct we impressed Greece with the idea that France was her protector.

ECCLIESIASTICAL COMMISSION.

The Marquis of LANSDOWNE moved the second reading of the Ecclesiastical Commission Bill. After pointing out the necessity of remodelling the commission, he stated that the bill provided for the appointment of three commissioners to attend to the management of estates, to be called the estates commissioners; two to be paid salaries of £1000 a year each, the third to be unpaid. The bill also provided that the offices of treasurer and secretary should not be held by one person.

The Archbishop of CANTERBURY generally approved of the bill, and defended the commission from the charges made against it. It was the fault of the Legislature that the late secretary had so much power; and up to a recent period he had been the faithful servant of the commission.

The Earl of HARROWBY and Lord STANLEY urged the advisability of keeping separate the episcopal and common funds, and disapproved of that part of the bill which provided for their consolidation. Lord Stanley expressed a hope that the Government would reconsider this part of the bill, and agree to amend it in committee.

The Marquis of LANSDOWNE would promise to reconsider the point, but he could give no hope that the two funds would be kept separate.

The Bishop of London approved generally of the bill, which was read a second time.—Adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—MONDAY.

The House met at four o'clock.

PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS.—THE ECCLIESIASTICAL COMMISSION.

Mr. HORSMAN was about to rise for the purpose of moving the resolution of which he had given notice on a previous day, viz.—"That the attention of this House having been directed to a letter addressed by the member for Cocker-mouth to his constituents, in which allegations are made impugning the conduct of the First Minister of the Crown and the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to legislation on ecclesiastical affairs, during the last session of Parliament, and the honourable member having produced a copy of that letter, and expressed his willingness to substantiate its accuracy, a committee of five members be nominated by Mr. Speaker to inquire into the truth of those allegations, and report its opinion to the House," when, amidst marked and evident attention,

Lord ASHLEY rose and offered his mediation between Lord J. Russell, Sir G. GREY, and Mr. HORSMAN, whose expected personal discussion had brought down a very full House and a large assemblage of strangers. The noble Lord having paid high compliments to the honour and unimpeachable integrity of the three disputants, pointed out the unfitness of a committee to investigate such a case, and the absence of all evidence beyond the memory of each gentleman engaged in the dispute. He thought it was evident the whole question arose from a misapprehension, and in order to dispose of it he moved that the order of the day be read.

Mr. HORSMAN declared that he did not charge the First Minister or the Home Secretary with the deliberate intention to deceive, nor had he, when he wrote the letter to his constituents, any such accusation in his mind. He withdrew fully and cheerfully every imputation on the honour of the noble Lord and the right hon. gentleman, and he expressed his regret that anything unpleasant had occurred between them.

Lord J. RUSSELL felt great satisfaction at the declaration, not only that the honourable member did not make the charge of an intention to deceive, but that he never had the intention to make such an accusation.

Sir G. GREY likewise expressed himself perfectly satisfied. Thus the matter dropped.

CEYLON.

On the resumption of the debate on the question for the re-appointment of the Ceylon committee,

Lord J. RUSSELL read a letter from Captain Watson, denying that the papers read by Mr. Baillie on the Ceylon debate, professing to be proclamations, were genuine. These pretended proclamations were, he said, unprincipled forgeries.

Mr. BAILLIE explained that the proclamations which purported to be signed by Captain Watson had been sent to him, and he had read them, believing them to be genuine.

Mr. J. STUART considered that it would be a farce to go on with the inquiry, if the committee were prevented from calling the necessary witnesses before them.

Lord J. RUSSELL remarked that, the witnesses against Lord Torrington having been heard, it was only just to hear those in his favour.

Mr. ADDERLEY thought it was apparent that Ministers sought wilfully to misrepresent all the acts of the committee.

Mr. HUME insisted on the necessity of sending out a commission to Ceylon, as the only way of arriving at the truth.

Mr. DISRAELI was willing to resume his labours on the committee, though he felt certain the result would be unsatisfactory both to the House and to the country. He felt a sincere conviction that an attempt was being made to prevent an impartial investigation.

Mr. ROEBUCK considered the mode of proceeding adopted by the members of the committee a most cowardly one. Those who had spoken charged the Government with the deliberate intention to prevent them from making a fair investigation and from doing justice; but, notwithstanding this, they proposed to go on with the inquiry. They should refuse to be members of the committee if they really were convinced that the Government were endeavouring to render the inquiry nugatory. The hon. and learned gentleman defended Lord Torrington, and declared that he saw with regret a spirit abroad, the effect of which was to paralyse the powers of our representatives abroad—a spirit from which none could be more dangerous.

Mr. HUME thought Mr. Roebuck must have risen from his bed that morning after having slept off all his former opinions; at all events, he was no longer the man he formerly was. A more tyrannical speech he (Mr. Hume) had never heard than that just delivered by the once Liberal member for Sheffield.

After an explanation from Mr. ROEBUCK, The committee was nominated.

PIRACY.

Sir FRANCIS BARING moved the second reading of the Pirates Head Money Repeal Bill.

Sir GEORGE GREY disapproved of repealing altogether the present law; he thought it would be better to modify it, so as to meet any abuses which had taken place under it.

Sir F. BARING said he proposed to give a discretion to the Admiralty to give head money, instead of making it compulsory, as at present. As the law stood, it was open to abuse, and it gave rise to imputations against those engaged in suppressing the slave trade.

Mr. HUME and Mr. CORBEN disapproved of the acts of Rajah Brooke. After a few observations from Sir H. VERNY and Colonel THOMPSON, the bill was read a second time.

The report of the resolution on our Australian colonies was received, and leave was given to bring in a bill founded thereon.

THE MERCHANT MARINE SERVICE.

In committee of the whole House—

Mr. LABOUCHERE moved a resolution on which to found a Bill for improving the condition of masters, mates, and seamen in the Merchant Service. The right hon. gentleman said the bill was in most of its provisions identical with that introduced last year. He proposed to constitute a department of mercantile marine, as a department of the Board of Trade, to exercise a general superintendence of the merchant service. He proposed a system of examination of masters and mates, to whom classified certificates would be given according to their degrees of professional knowledge and to the tonnage of the vessels in which they sought employment. He also proposed several rules for bettering the discipline and treatment of the crews. The right hon. gentleman minutely explained the details of the bill.

Mr. CARDWELL promised to lend his help in framing a good measure on this most important subject, and requested an ample allotment of time to consider its provisions deliberately.

Mr. HUME, Mr. Ricardo, Mr. Wawn, and Mr. W. Brown made a few observations, and the resolution was agreed to.

MERCHANT SEAMEN'S FUND.

Mr. LABOUCHERE moved a preliminary resolution on which to found a Bill for the regulation of the Merchant Seamen's Fund. The right hon. gentleman gave a history of the foundation of this fund, in 1746, when it was established as a provision for disabled merchant seamen, and for the widows and orphans of those who had been drowned or killed in the merchant service—a purpose that it was enabled to fulfil by means of large subscriptions, and the imposition of 1s. on captains and of 6d. on seamen. He traced the fortunes of the fund down to 1833, when the act was passed under which it now exists. By this act an imposition of 2s. was laid on captains, and 1s. on seamen, and all widows and orphans of mer-

chant seamen were allowed to claim pensions. But, in consequence of the total cessation of those large subscriptions that first mainly supported it, the fund was on the brink of bankruptcy—and, bad as was its condition at present, its prospect was worse. The right hon. gentleman said he proposed by his bill to consolidate the management of the fund, and to place its administration in the hands of the Trinity House, to which would be joined two officers of the Board of Trade. He also proposed that the pensions should be equal, and that the seaman should not receive less than 6d. a day. He proposed also to raise the contribution of the sailors from 1s. a month to 1s. 6d., and to revert to the original rule of the fund, which confined the pensions to the widows and orphans "of seamen who had been drowned or killed in the merchant service." There would still be a deficiency of £30,000 a year; and this, he proposed, should be contributed by the State. Mr. HUME condemned the scheme. He insisted that one shilling a ton on all vessels would pay all the lighthouse dues, and furnish a fund ample for providing for seamen, their widows and orphans.

Sir G. Clerk, Mr. Fagan, Sir W. Clay, Mr. Cardwell, and Mr. Headlam criticised the scheme shortly, and the resolution was agreed to.

TONNAGE OF MERCHANT SHIPPING.

On the motion of Mr. LABOUCHERE, a resolution on which to base a bill for the regulation of the admeasurement of the tonnage and burden of merchant shipping was also agreed to.

THE FRANCHISE IN IRELAND.

Sir W. SOMERVILLE moved for leave to bring in a Bill to amend the laws which regulate the qualification and Registration of Parliamentary Voters in Ireland. The bill, he said, was substantially the same as that previously introduced by him, and by it he proposed to substitute a uniform franchise on an £8 rating in counties, towns, and boroughs, in lieu of the present various descriptions of qualifications.

Mr. A. STAFFORD regretted, that, considering the miserable social condition of the Irish people, the Government did not first propose measures to Parliament for the amelioration of that condition, rather than a merely political measure which, however necessary, was of far less pressing urgency.

Mr. H. HERBERT remarked that any franchise based on the present unequal Poor-law valuation in Ireland must fail.

Leave was given to bring in the bill; also, a bill to shorten the duration of elections in Ireland, and for establishing additional places for taking the poll thereat.

On the motion of Sir G. GREY, a committee to inquire into the rules and discipline established with regard to the treatment of prisoners in gaols and houses of correction in England and Wales was agreed to, after a speech from Mr. CHARLES PEARSON.

Lord NAAS moved the extension of the inquiry to Ireland; and after a discussion the House divided.

For the addition of words "and Ireland"	18
Against it	23
Majority against the amendment	—5

Adjourned at half-past one o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—TUESDAY.

On the motion of Lord MONTAGUE, the County Cess (Ireland) Bill was read a second time, and ordered for commitment on Thursday.

CONVICTS AT THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

In answer to some observations from Lord STANLEY, relating to the recent convict controversy at the Cape.

Earl GREY observed that the order in Council, which had now been revoked, was never intended as the foundation of a system. The Government had no intention of transmitting convicts to any colony which had not expressed its willingness to receive them. But there were special circumstances of difficulty attending the disposal of the Irish *detenus* in Bermuda, who were very different from the ordinary class of convicts—having been sentenced to transportation for offences under the pressure of the insurrection arising from the late famine, and for whom it was thought no unfairness towards the inhabitants of the Cape to provide an asylum in the colony.

Lord BROUGHAM, without expressing any opinion as to the question of right or wrong between the Government and the Cape colonists, denounced the cruelty practised towards the convicts. The worst part of their punishment had been prolonged for many weeks by their confinement on board the *Neptune*, whilst the controversy was kept unsettled.

Lord BROUGHAM laid on the table a Bill for shortening and rendering more plain and intelligible the language used in Acts of Parliament.

The Bill was read a first time.—Adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—TUESDAY.

Mr. HUME presented several petitions relating to Church government, including one for the better distribution of ecclesiastical revenues, so as to afford more adequate incomes to poor curates.

Mr. MILNER GIBSON postponed to the 26th inst. his motion for the repeal of the newspaper stamp and advertisement duties, and the excise on paper.

Mr. W. J. FOX gave notice of a motion for a committee of inquiry into the state of education in England and Wales.

THE COLONIES.

Sir W. MOLESWORTH, approving of the principles recently announced by the Government for the Colonial policy, regretted that, in practice, those principles had been so inadequately carried out. The hon. member then briefly gave notice of his intention to move several amendments when the bill now before the House came on for debate, tending to enlarge the popular element in the proposed colonial institutions, and limit the authority of the Colonial-office.

EXCLUSION OF ROMAN CATHOLICS FROM JURIES.

Mr. SADLER moved for a select committee to inquire into the facts connected with the striking of a Special Jury in a civil case of "Callanan against Cameron," in which Mr. Kemmis, the Crown Solicitor in Ireland, had struck off the names of all the Catholics from the jury-list. He went through the names of the excluded gentlemen, bearing specific testimony to the private merits of each, and dwelt at very great length upon the injustice and impolicy of this treatment of Catholics.

Mr. SCULLY seconded the motion.

Mr. HATCHELL (the Solicitor-General for Ireland) protested against a discussion turning upon an action which was yet before the tribunals. He resisted the motion as highly objectionable.

Mr. SADLER explained that his motion was designed to open the general question.

Mr. SCULLY supported the motion, as called for to repair the insults offered to the Catholics of Ireland.

Mr. NAPIER commented on the injurious results of perpetually mixing up religious differences with questions where they had no proper place.

Mr. FAGAN regretted that the bad practice of jury-packing still prevailed in Ireland.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL objected, that the discussion, if it proceeded further, would seriously interfere with the administration of justice in the Irish courts. Mr. HUME said, there was no fair parallel between the English and the Irish law courts. The administration in this country was pure, and the juries impartial. In Ireland the very reverse was the case. No peace was to be hoped in that part of the empire until all such abuses were fully remedied.

Mr. SADLER would not press his motion to a division in so thin a House, which was, in fact, at the time within the limits of a "count out," but thought that his proposition had been met upon technical points, while its principles were left untouched.

The motion was withdrawn.

Mr. HUME moved for returns of the present condition and past experience of the Indian trigonometrical and maritime surveys, and of the lighthouses and charts, &c. in and of the Indian and China coasts.—Ordered.

LAW REFORM.

The Process and Practice (Ireland) Bill was read a second time, after some observations from Mr. NAPIER relative to the compensations for abolished offices. The Court of Chancery (Ireland) Bill being proposed for a second reading.

Mr. TURNER judged that the scheme of remedy proposed in the bill would but increase the evils of delay and expense, and the Chancery proceedings which it was designed to cure. He had a bill in preparation for the reform of the English Chancery, which was far superior in its mechanism. To prove this position, the hon. member dissected at some length the various clauses of the Government measure, which he pronounced a disgrace to legislation.

Sir J. ROMILLY defended the clauses of his bill.

Mr. NAPIER was proceeding to address the House, when the debate came to an end by a "count out," at a quarter to ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—WEDNESDAY.

The House met at two o'clock instead of noon, on account of its being Ash Wednesday.

Mr. FREWEN moved the second reading of the Highways (District Surveyors) Bill, but after a short discussion it was postponed to the 6th of March.

The Irish Fisheries Bill was also postponed to the same day.

COUNTY REPRESENTATIVE BOARDS OF TAXATION.

Mr. M. GIBSON moved the second reading of the County Rates and Expenditure Bill, the object of which, he said, was to carry out the principle of representation with taxation. He did not ask the House to pledge themselves to the details, and he expressed his willingness to allow the bill to be referred to a select committee.

Mr. SPOONER objected to the second reading then, on the ground that hon. members had not had time to examine it. The bill was only delivered two or three days ago. The hon. member moved the adjournment of the debate.

Mr. STANFORD denied that the principle of representation accompanying taxation was raised by this bill; if it were, he would approve of the second reading.

Sir G. GREY was not prepared to express anything like a final opinion on the bill, and thought the postponement of the discussion was a very fair request, considering that the bill had only been in the hands of hon. members a couple of days. It was one of great magnitude, and should not be decided on without due deliberation.

Mr. HUME considered a delay on this question equivalent to defeat.

Sir R. PEEL recommended postponement.

Mr. M. GIBSON acquiesced, and asked the First Minister to give up a Government night.

Mr. ROEBUCK required to know if the Government were favourable to the principle of representation accompanying taxation.

After a few observations from Mr. HENLEY and Mr. NEWDEGATE, Lord J. RUSSELL said he could not give a Government night, as he had hardly a sufficient number at his disposal for the business before the House; but he considered a delay would be advantageous in enabling the country to judge of the merits of the bill. He was so strongly in favour of the introduction of the principle of representation with taxation in county rates and expenditure, that he would give his support to the second reading of the bill, but without pledging himself in the least to the details.

The debate was adjourned to the 6th of March.

ROADS AND HIGHWAYS BILL.

Mr. C. LEWIS moved for leave to bring in a Bill to amend the laws relative to the management of the Highways in England and Wales. The hon. gentleman described the evils arising from want of economy and due discrimination in the expenditure, and from the small districts that had the charge of the highways, and explained the details of the bill. The principle of his measure was compulsory combined management for districts of parishes or townships, with paid surveyors; the districts to be formed on the territorial divisions established under the Poor-law, and to be placed under the management of the boards of guardians.

Sir R. PEEL questioned the policy of confiding the management of the highways to the boards of guardians, and of taking the districts established for the purposes of poor relief. He thought the country might be divided into new districts, having regard to railways, and he believed that the ratepayers would have more confidence in a body of independent way-wardens elected by themselves. The right hon. baronet, however, cordially approved of the principle of a compulsory combined management of highways.

After a few observations from Mr. FREWEN, Mr. RICE, Sir W. JOLLIFFE, Mr. DEEDS, Mr. SLANEY, Sir H. WILLUGHBY, and Mr. E. B. DENISON, leave was given to bring in the bill, which was read a first time.—Adjourned.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—THURSDAY.

The County Cess (Ireland) Bill was read a third time.

DOLLYS BRAE.

The Marquis of LONDONDERRY asked the noble Lord (Stanley), who had given notice of a motion on this subject, what practical object he proposed to himself in reviving the discussion on that unfortunate affair. The two noble Lords who had been connected with it had got out of the affair with credit to themselves; the one (Lord Roden) having had the sympathy of the country with him, the other (Lord Clarendon) having obtained the approval of the Government. No possible good could result from the removal of the discussion, but to again call into existence that anti-rent agitation, which, if revived, bid fair to equal amongst the Presbyterians the organization which had existed amongst the Roman Catholics.

Lord STANLEY could not see any connection between the subject of his proposed motion and the non-payment of rent; and he assured the noble Lord he would not enter upon any statement bearing upon the subject of the noble Marquis, his tenantry, or his rent.

IRISH POOR-LAW UNIONS.

The Earl of LUCAN moved for a nominal return of the Poor-Law Unions in Ireland where the affairs have been administered by paid guardians, and stating the period of such administration; also, return of the amount of the debts, claims, and liabilities against each of these unions when the administration by paid guardians commenced and terminated. The noble Earl at much length contended that the system of vice-guardians in those unions which were in debt had worked badly.

The Marquis of LANSDOWNE had no objection to grant the returns asked for. He would not enter into the subject on the present occasion, as in a few days all the papers relating to the administration of the Poor-laws in Ireland would be laid on the table, and the whole question would be there found fully treated.

The returns were ordered.

The Marquis of LANSDOWNE laid on the table a copy of the commission to inquire into Smithfield Market, and other papers, by command of her Majesty.

Adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—THURSDAY.

The House met at 4 o'clock.

ECCELESIASTICAL COMMISSION.

Mr. HORSMAN gave notice that on that day fortnight he should move for a Committee to inquire into the circumstances relating to the dismissal of the late Secretary to the Ecclesiastical Commission.

TENURE OF LAND (IRELAND) BILL.

Mr. SADLER gave notice that on that day fortnight he should move for a Committee to enquire into the grievance connected with the present tenure of land in Ireland.

SEWERS.

Mr. HUME moved for a return showing the financial state of each district of sewers within the present jurisdiction; the amount of rates that were uncollected; the amount of balance in hand (if any), also debts and liabilities (if any) on each district, at the time they were superseded by the Act 11 and 12 Vic., c. 112, intitled the "Metropolitan Sewers Act;" and account of all rates made since that period; showing the rental, the amount of rate, and at what rate; also, the amount received from rates, contributions, and other sources, and how the same has been expended, under distinct and separate head of works, establishment contingent expenses, &c., up to the 31st day of December 1849, stating the titles of the several Acts of Parliament under which the Commissioners act.—Agreed to.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES AND MUSEUMS.

On the motion of Mr. EWAET, leave was given to bring in a bill for enabling town-councils to establish public libraries and museums.

MINISTERS' MONEY IN IRELAND.

Mr. WILLIAM FAGAN moved for a Committee of the whole House, to take into consideration the law relating to the rate or tax called "Ministers' Money" in Ireland, with the view to the repeal of so much thereof as relates to the said rate or tax; and further to take into consideration the Act 3 and 4 William 4, c. 114, called "The Church Temporalities Act," for the purpose of amending the same so as to provide thereby a substitute out of the revenues of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners as a provision for the Protestant ministers in certain corporate towns in Ireland, in lieu of the annual sums now received by them, under and by virtue of the Act 17 and 18 Charles 2, cap. 7. The honourable member stated, as a reason for his motion, that the tax called ministers' money pressed with great severity upon the poorer classes of the Roman Catholic population in the large towns of Ireland, particularly in Dublin, Cork, Clonmel, Kinsale, and Waterford, and led to the lamentable and endless sectarian rancour among the Irish people.

Sir G. GREY regretted that, as the circumstances of the case were at the present moment in the same condition as they were last year when the hon. gentleman brought forward his motion, he must pursue the same course that he did then, and move the previous question. While he admitted the candid and open manner in which the hon. gentleman had brought forward the question, he doubted the policy and efficacy of his doing so.

After some discussion the House divided, negating Mr. Fagan's motion by a majority of 96 to 76.

Mr. ADDELEY moved for leave to bring in a Bill repealing part of the act of the 5th Geo. 4, which empowers her Majesty, with the advice of her Privy Council, to appoint any place in her Majesty's dominions for the transportation of felons and others under sentence of punishment.

Sir G. GREY opposed the motion, on the ground that it trench upon the prerogative of the Crown.

Lord J. RUSSELL denied that any circumstances had occurred to render such a measure as that contemplated by the hon. gentleman's motion necessary. Even if one case had occurred in which the colonists considered themselves badly treated, that was not a sufficient reason to change the whole system. However, he denied that that case was as bad as had been represented. He should oppose the motion.

The House divided. The numbers were—

For the motion	32
Against it	110
Majority	—78

The motion was accordingly lost.—Adjourned.

NAVAL AND MILITARY INTELLIGENCE.

ADMIRALTY LEVEES.—The first Lord, Sir Francis Baring, has given notice that his levees for the season will, as usual take place on Tuesdays, after one o'clock. The Senior Naval-Lord, Rear-Admiral Dundas, will also receive officers as before.

Captain H. T. Austin, C.B., to command the Arctic Expedition, and to proceed in the direction of Davis's Straits, Lancaster Sound, and Barrow's Straits, to Melville Island and neighbouring places.

ARCTIC SPECIMENS FOR THE BRITISH MUSEUM.—The Admiralty have directed that several cases containing rare specimens of plants, &c., collected during Sir James Ross's late Arctic voyage, shall be forthwith sent to enrich the national treasures at the British Museum.

THE NAVY ESTIMATES.—REDUCTION IN THE ROYAL FACTORIES.—The Admiralty have decided that, in the forthcoming navy estimates for the financial years 1850-51, the amount to be paid for factory wages at the two great establishments shall not exceed £75,000. Of this sum, £43,000 is to be allowed to Woolwich, and £32,000 for Portsmouth.

THE REDUCTION.—An exception to the arrangement for the reduction of the army is to take place as regards the second battalion, 6th Regiment, which was formed for special service at the Oregon—the whole of the officers are to be placed upon half-pay until appointments to other corps can be provided for them.

IRISH STAFF.—The reduction of the officers who were appointed for special service in Ireland is ordered to take place from the first of April, viz:—Brevet Lieut-Colonel Macarthur, at Cavan, and Colonel Sir Michael Creagh, K.H., at Galway. The appointment of Colonel St. John A. Clarke, Assistant Quarter Master General in the Belfast district, is to be discontinued at the end of March, the duties of which are in future to be performed by the Assistant Adjutant-General.

REGIMENT SCHOOLS.—A circular has been issued by the Secretary at War, to the effect that, although all supplies of books and materials required for the schools shall be furnished under directions from his office, it is not intended to relieve the non-commissioned officers and men who voluntarily attend the school from providing their own stationery, copy-books, &c. All recruits, however, attending the school under the General Order of the 10th of April last, will be supplied with these articles.

MEDALS FOR THE EXPEDITION TO EGYPT IN 1801.—We have much pleasure in announcing that it has been decided, on the recommendation of the Medal Committee, to extend the issue to the land and sea forces engaged in the expedition to Egypt in 1801 when the British troops, commanded by Abercrombie, effected a landing under the fire of the guns of the ships, and, assisted by the seamen and mariners of the squadron, commanded by Admiral Lord Keith, succeeded, after an obstinate and sanguinary conflict with the French, gaining possession of Aboukir. The English forces, numbering 15,000, then pursued the enemy to Alexandria, and on the 21st of March fought the memorable battle of that name, in which the gallant Abercrombie was mortally wounded.

CHURCH, UNIVERSITIES, &c.

LONDON UNION ON CHURCH MATTERS.

The committee of this union have issued the accompanying papers, urging upon the members of the Church the necessity of prompt and united action on the matter referred to. They suggested that the resolutions should be adopted, and then they should be enclosed with the address to the Archbishop of the province, and to the Bishop of the diocese, as numerous signatures as possible. The petition to the Queen may be adopted in whole or in part, as deemed most expedient.

The committee earnestly urge on members of Convocation to consider whether the time has not arrived when, according to the Royal promise prefixed to the Thirty-nine Articles, Convocation ought to deliberate respecting the question now before the Privy Council, which vitally affects the doctrine of the Church.

"The petition should be written (not printed) on paper or parchment, and one signature at least should be signed on the paper or parchment on which the petition is written; other signatures may be written on other paper and appended."

Resolved—

1. That the Universal Church alone possesses, by the commission and command of its Divine Founder, the power of defining in matter of doctrine; and, subject to the same, the Church of England alone possesses, within its sphere, the power of interpreting and declaring the intention of such definitions as the Universal Church has framed.

2. That a power to interpret formularies of the Church by a final judicial sentence—the synods of the Church not being, in practice, admitted to declare the doctrine of the Church, irrespective of such sentences—becomes in effect a power to declare in matters of doctrine.

3. That by the suit of Gorham v. the Bishop of Exeter, now pending by appeal in the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, as well as by the case of Escott v. Mastin, in the year 1842, it appears that the Crown, through a court constituted by act of Parliament alone, exercises a power to confirm, reverse, or vary, by a final judicial sentence, the decisions and interpretations of the Courts of the Church in matters of doctrine.

4. That in the present state of the law nothing hinders but that an interpretation which shall have been judged to be unsound by the Courts of the Church may be finally declared to be sound by the said Judicial Committee; or that a person who shall have been judged to be unfit for cure of souls by the spiritual tribunal, may be declared to be fit for cure of souls by the civil power.

5. That the exercise of power in such matters, under such state of the law, endangers the public maintenance of the faith of Christ.

6. That the existence of such a state of things is a grievance of conscience; and that this grievance is aggravated by the fact that the members of the Judicial Committee are not necessarily members of the Church of England.

7. That, although the fullest confidence may be placed in the integrity and legal ability of the Judges in the case now pending, nevertheless, no judgment pronounced by them, either one way or the other, can be accepted by the Church.

8. That, for the redress of the said grievance, the following steps are necessary:—

- (1) That the Church in Convocation or Synod have licence to deliberate for the special purpose of devising a proper appellate tribunal for determining all questions of doctrine, and other matters purely spiritual.
- (2) That an act of Parliament be passed, for the purpose of making the judgments of such tribunal binding on the temporal courts of these realms.
- (3) That the acts of Parliament relating to the Privy Council be so amended as to exempt questions of doctrine and other matters purely spiritual from the cognisance of the Privy Council.

The paper concludes with a form for a petition to her Majesty.

OXFORD.

MATHEMATICAL SCHOLARSHIPS.—The Examiners appointed by the trustees of the Mathematical Scholarships give notice that an examination will be held in the schools, on Monday, the 11th of March, and the following days, for the purpose of electing one Senior and one Junior Scholar. Gentlemen who desire to offer themselves as candidates are requested to call—with certificates of their standing, the consent of the head or viceregent of their college or hall, and (for the Senior Scholarship) of their having passed the examination for their degree, in case they have not taken the degree of B.A.—on Professor Powell, New College-lane, on Wednesday, the 6th, at two o'clock. The Junior Scholarship is open to all members of the University who have not exceeded nine terms from their matriculation inclusively. The Senior Scholarship is open to all Bachelors of Arts, or those who have, at least, passed their public examination, and have not exceeded the twenty-sixth term from their matriculation inclusively.

CAMBRIDGE.

Graces have been passed referring it to the Syndicate:—"1. To consider the provisions of a bill about to be introduced into Parliament, 'For regulating the markets and fairs held within the borough of Cambridge, and at Reach, in the county of Cambridge, and for enlarging the market-place; and for rebuilding or altering the Guildhall of the said borough; and for the improvement of the said borough, and the better regulation of the police within the same;' and to take such steps respecting it as they may deem necessary to protect the interests of the University. 2. To confer with the authorities of the town respecting the contribution paid by the University under the Cambridge Improvement Acts, and respecting the maintenance and management of the borough police force, with the view of effecting a more satisfactory arrangement (subject to the approval of the Senate) in both these matters."

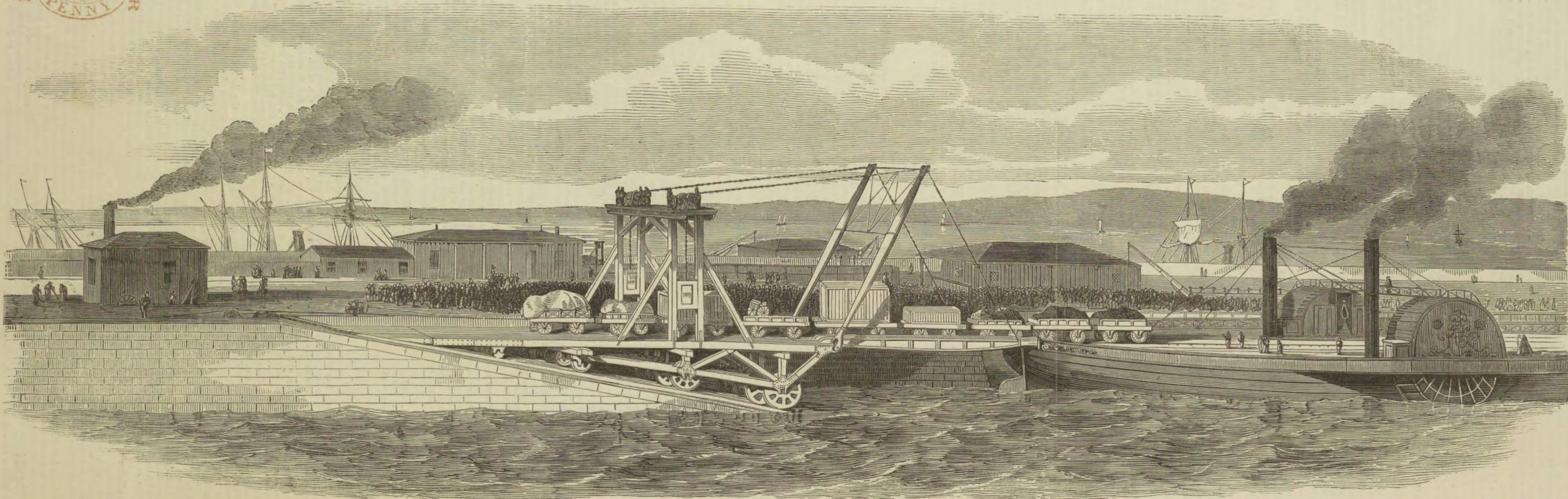
THE BURNBY PRIZE.—The late Mr. Richard Burnby, M.A., of Christ's College, having signified his intention of founding an annual prize, not exceeding £105, for the best English essay "on some moral or metaphysical subject, on the existence, nature, and attributes of God, or on the truth and evidence of the Christian religion;" and his intention having been carried into effect by his sister and executrix, Miss Jane Caroline Burnby, the Vice-Chancellor has given notice that the subject for the present year is "The unity of design, which pervades the successive dispensations of religion recorded in the Scriptures, is an argument for the truth of revelation." The candidates for the prize are to be Bachelors of Arts in their first year of standing; and the essays are to be sent in to the Vice-Chancellor on or before the 12th of November, 1850, with the names of the respective authors sealed up.

THE DEALTRY PRIZES.—The sum of £1050, Three per Cent. Consols, was, on the 31st ultimo, transferred to the Master, Fellows, and Scholars of Trinity College, to found two annual prizes of fifteen guineas each, to be called the Dealtry Prizes, in commemoration of the high esteem in which the late William Dealtry, D.D., Archdeacon of Surrey, and formerly Fellow of Trinity College, was held by his friends and former pupils. Amongst the contributors to this fund are the Archbishops of Canterbury and York; the Bishops of London, Winchester, Oxford, Lichfield, and Gloucester and Bristol; the Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer, and Baron Parke; the Dean of Winchester, the Warden of New College, Oxford; the Master and Senior Dean of Trinity College, Cambridge, &c.

PREFERRMENTS.—The following preferments and appointments have taken place:—The Rev. J. S. Beresford, Fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge, to be a Minor Canon of Peterborough Cathedral; the Rev. T. R. Dickinson, to the Rectory of Nymet Rowland, and the Curacy of Laphord, Devon; the Rev. D. Parry Thomas, to the Rectory of Llanmaes; the Rev. Alexander Irwin, to the Rectory of Armagh; the Rev. Edward Jones, to the Rectory of Gwaenyscor, Flintshire; the Rev. Edward Osborn, to the Vicarage of Asheldham, Essex; the Rev. William Martin, to the Vicarage of Grantchester; the Hon. and Rev. Charles Frederick Octavius Spencer, to the Vicarage of Cumnor, Berks; the Rev. John Fairbairn Johnson, to the Vicarage of Ab-Kettleby, Holwell, Leicestershire.

VACANCIES.—Trefonen P. C., Denbighshire; dio. of St. Asaph; £80; pat., Lord Viscount Clive; v. by the promotion of Rev. E. Jones. Chillington West R., Sussex, dio. Chichester; val. £491, with residence; pat., Earl of Abergavenny; Rev. W. Barlee, dec. Navestock V., Essex; dio. Rochester; val. £422, with residence; pats., Trinity Coll., Oxford; Rev. J. Ford, dec. Sandhurst P. C., Berks; dio. Oxford; val. £72, with residence; pat., Bishop of Oxford; Rev. J. H. Brasier, dec. Barton St. David C., Somerset; dio. Bath and Wells; stipend £60; pat., V. of Barton St. David.

SISTERS OF MERCY.—The advocates for the introduction of this invaluable order into the service of the Anglican Church have lately received an accession of strength for which, probably, they were scarcely prepared. At the recent anniversary of the German Hospital in London, the healths of the Lord Bishop of Manchester, and of the other English clergy who supported the institution, having been drunk, the Right Rev. Prelate, in returning thanks for himself and the clergy, spoke with great force, and with a sincere conviction, on the benefits which were likely to accrue to English charitable institutions by the introduction into them of Protestant Sisters of Mercy. He had often admired the Roman Catholic Sisters of Mercy. He was free to confess—widely though he differed from the followers of that persuasion—he honoured and respected a Roman Catholic if he was sincere in his religion. That women should devote themselves to the Christian duty of visiting and comforting the sick, was originally and genuinely Christian. It was not enough to tend the diseased and afflicted, to assuage the sufferings of their bodies, and to smooth the pillow under their drooping heads. Those who watched beside the bed of suffering and death had a higher, a more important, a more sacred duty to perform. They ought to enlighten, to comfort, and to speak words of love and peace. This the Roman Catholics had understood; and ought we, who owned the same obligations, but to whom our religion held out a higher and a purer hope, turn away from the sufferings of the soul, and confine our care and attention to the body? Such a course of action would be unworthy of the principles of Protestantism. He was aware that so harrowing a subject was likely to grate on the feelings of the company; but addressing them as he did, he felt it a duty to express his conviction, and bear witness to the beneficial influence of the Protestant Sisters of Mercy, as proved by the example of the German Hospital at Dalton.



FLOATING RAILWAY ACROSS THE FORTH, BETWEEN GRANTON AND BURNTISLAND.

On Thursday week this very novel and interesting portion of the Edinburgh, Perth, and Dundee Railway, extending between Granton and Burntisland, was opened with great success. In a trial passage, upwards of twenty loaded railway waggons, and a passenger carriage, in which were several of the directors and their friends, were put on board at Burntisland, ferried across the Forth, and drawn ashore at Granton with great ease and speed. The vessel, or ship, was only half loaded, there being no more carriages at hand to put on board. With a strong wind from the north-west, and a heavy swell in consequence down the Forth, some inconvenience was expected; but the Floating Railway went along as smoothly and steadily as if the sea had been placid and calm.

This mode of crossing the Forth without changing carriages, and in so stable a vessel as the Floating Railway, is expected to render this the most agreeable route to and from the north of Scotland. Goods, minerals, and live stock will now be conveyed across the ferry without removal from the trucks, and, if found necessary, passengers could also, with the greatest ease and safety, be taken over without change of carriage; thus, in a manner, establishing a continuous line of railway from London to Aberdeen.

To give an idea of the undertaking and the difficulties connected with it, it should be explained that the tide rises about twenty feet, so that a vessel on a level with the quay

at high water would be a long way below it at low water. Some means must, therefore, be planned for putting the waggons on board. Hydraulic or steam cranes, we believe, were proposed to lift and lower them; but this was considered to be much too slow a process, expensive, and apt to damage the carriages. A floating bridge was also suggested: that is, a set of girders and beams, with the one end hinged on shore, and the other end attached to a float, to rise and fall with the tide. This, it was deemed, would have answered remarkably well, were the water always smooth; but, in stormy weather, it would have required protection from expensive piers and jetties. The method which has been adopted with so much success, was designed and executed under the instruction of Mr. Bouch, the manager of the line.

The Railway may be thus briefly described:—Alongside the piers at Burntisland and Granton is an incline or slip, constructed of masonry, upon which are laid two lines of rails, the same gauge as the main line. Upon this incline is placed a heavy moveable platform, 61 feet in length, by 21 feet in breadth, framed of timber, and resting upon sixteen wheels. To the front of the platform are attached, by means of universal joints, four malleable iron girders, 35 feet long, constructed of boiler-plate, spanning the required distance from the platform to the vessel, and affording sufficient depth of water for the

keel of the vessel to clear the surface of the slip. These girders are raised and lowered on the arrival and departure of the vessel, by means of a winch on each side of a staging 18 feet high, erected across the platform. The whole platform, with the girders, is raised and lowered to suit the several heights of the tide, by means of a small stationary steam-engine, which is also employed in moving the trucks off and on board the vessel. The drums and gearing in connection therewith are so arranged as to work the platform, or load and discharge the vessel, with the greatest facility. The vessel can be fully loaded in about five minutes with from thirty to forty waggons, and discharged in about the same time, by the two stationary engines ashore.

The Floating Railway—*Leviathan*, as the vessel is called—is peculiarly constructed. It being necessary for the waggons to lie all along the deck, it was thought advisable to keep the engines apart, so as to leave the centre clear, and allow the waggons to pass to the stern, for the vessel is so low that the paddle-shafts are several feet above deck; and, had these crossed, as in the usual plan of engines, it would have been a barrier, and only half of the deck could be filled with carriages at a time. By the present arrangement, moreover, of the one engine driving only one paddle, and the other engine the other paddle, the vessel can be put in any position required, without ropes or assistance of any kind

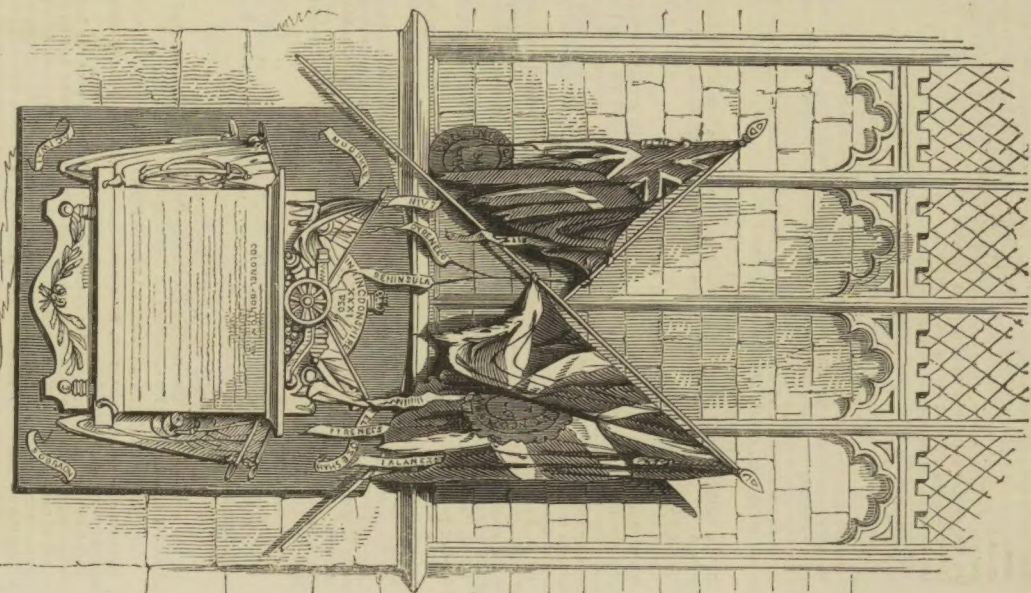
from the shore. This is beautifully managed, by working one of the engines ahead, and the other astern.

It must be very satisfactory to the directors and managers of the Edinburgh, Perth, and Dundee Railway Company, to have their labours brought to so successful a termination. We understand that it was no sooner advertised that goods would be taken across the Forth by the above company without breaking bulk, than 400 tons of turnips were offered them as a commencement.

The Railway and the engines were constructed by Mr. Robert Napier, of Glasgow. Notwithstanding the form and construction is very different from sea-going vessels generally, the whole is finished in the most complete manner, and reflects the highest credit on the abilities of that eminent engineer.

A few of the gentlemen connected with the line, along with the contractors, celebrated the auspicious event of the completion of the floating platforms, by dining together in the evening at the Granton Hotel. The duties of chairman were discharged in the most able manner by Mr. John Anderson, the efficient contractor for the working of the ferries.

In the accompanying Engraving is represented the Floating Railway lying along the east side of Granton Pier, with the landing-slip and apparatus drawing off a train.



COLOURS OF THE 31ST REGIMENT PLACED ABOVE THE MONUMENT TO THE OFFICERS, IN CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL.

On Monday last, the day following the fourth anniversary of the battle of Solon, the old colours of the gallant 31st Regiment were, by permission of the Dean and Chapter, placed in the nave of Canterbury Cathedral, immediately above the marble testimonial, executed by Mr. Richardson, the sculptor, to those of the Regiment who fell on the Sutlej.

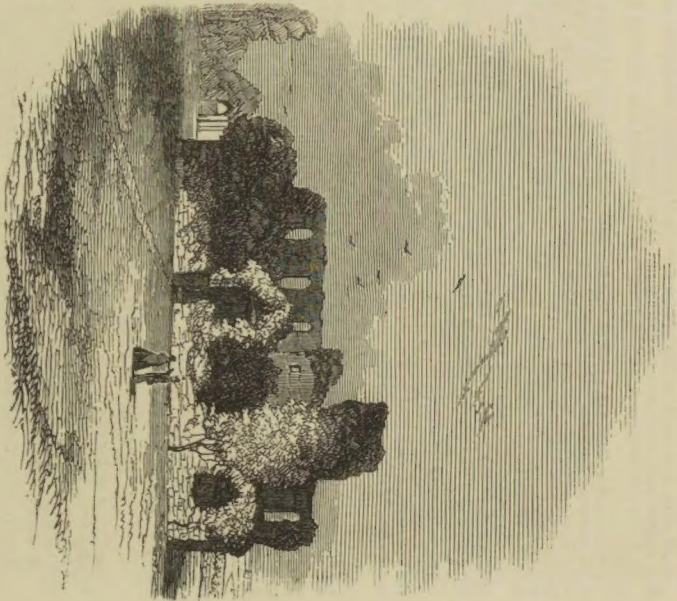
From the records of the Regiment, about to be published by Mr. Cannon, of the Adjutant-General's-office, we find these colours were presented in 1827, at Meerut, in the East Indies, by Lady Annesley, Lady of the Governor-General of India. The Colours were borne through the Afghan campaign, in 1843; and the Sutlej, in 1845-46. In this last campaign, twenty-six officers and upwards of 600 men were killed and wounded; and at Solon, both officers and men, as recorded on silver plates inserted on the sides.

On the return of the Regiment to England, new Colours were presented by his Royal Highness Prince George of Cambridge, at Dublin, in 1848. Subsequently, Lieutenant-Colonel Spence, till lately commanding, in the name of the officers, offered the old Colours to the Dean and Chapter of Canterbury Cathedral, to be placed over their testimonial; and it having been unanimously resolved to receive them, the sculptor, by order of the officers, and accompanied by Lieutenant Timbrell (who, it may be remembered, was dangerously wounded at Solon), in the presence of the Venérable Archdeacon Croft, the Canon in residence, assisted by Mr. Austin, the surveyor, to the Cathedral, carefully deposited the Colours, now historical records of a stirring past, solemnly but quietly and without either pomp or parade, over the monument, so as in no way to interfere with the architecture, but to add equally to the appearance of the testimonial and nave of the Cathedral.

NOOKS AND CORNERS OF OLD ENGLAND.

RUINS OF THE FRANCISCAN CONVENT, AT DUNWICH.

Dunwich is so enveloped in the halo of tradition, that he who ventures to elucidate its history by pursuing the path of topographical inquiry, must exercise unusual caution, lest he be misled. Unlike the ruined cities whose fragments attest their former grandeur, Dunwich is wasted, desolate, and void. Its places and temples are no more, and its environs present an aspect lonely, stern, and



RUINS OF THE CONVENT OF FRANCISCAN FRIARS, AT DUNWICH.

will. From the discovery of Roman coins here, the idea of a Roman station was consequently adopted. With respect to its ecclesiastical history, we learn that Felix, the Burgundian Bishop, whom Sisebert, King of the East Angles, brought here to reconvert his subjects to Christianity, fixed his episcopal see at Dunwich. In the year 636, three Bishops succeeded him, whose jurisdiction extended over the whole Kingdom of the East Angles. At length the See was divided, and a Bishop for the northern part of the Kingdom being placed at Elmham, the Bishop of Dunwich (Dunmoe or Dunmoe, as it was then called) had the Suffolk portion only. After this division of the See, only eleven Bishops sat at Dunwich—the successors being prevented by the ravages that broke out and which put an end to the Bishopric before it had continued 200 years. In Domesday Book, Dunwich was valued as paying £200 a year to the King, and 60,000 herrings. In King Stephen's time, it appears that the ships at Orford paid some kind of toll to Dunwich, which was then valued at 30s. per annum. In the reign of Henry II., Dunwich was a place of considerable notoriety, and is said to have been stored with riches of all sorts. In the first year of King John it had a charter of liberties, and a grant of the wheels of the sea. This Monks, among other things mentioned in this charter, granted to the burgesses the liberty of marrying their sons and



THE COUNTY HUNT BALL, IN THE NEW HALL, AT READING.

daughters as they would. Here were certainly six if not eight parish churches: St. John's, which was a rectory, seems to have been swallowed up by the sea about the year 1540; St. Martin's, which was likewise a rectory; as were also St. Nicholas and St. Peter's. St. Leonard's and All Saints' were appropriated; and the former was probably lost, as in a will made in 1450 the testator bequeaths his house in the parish anciently called St. Leonard's. The register of Eye mentions also the churches of St. Michael and St. Bartholomew in Dunwich, which were engulfed by the sea before the year 1331. Besides these churches, Weaver notices three chantries, dedicated to St. Anthony, St. Francis, and St. Catherine: these were standing in the time of Henry VIII. There was also the Temple Church, which probably belonged to the Templars, and afterwards to the Hospitalers, who had a good estate in this part. The ruins of a noble ancient church, belonging to St. James's Hospital, were lately visible; and there was another church built for the use of the hospital, called Maison Dieu.

Besides these churches, there were at Dunwich two houses of Franciscan and Dominican friars; each of which foundations had their respective churches. The walls of this house still remain, within an enclosure of seven acres, with the arches of two out of the three gates by which they were entered, and are shown in the accompanying view. There is nothing remarkable in their construction; but, being covered with ivy, they form a picturesque object.

Dunwich seems to have been at the height of its prosperity in the reign of Henry III., when it paid one hundred marks to the King's tax; though, during the same reign, the sea made so great a breach here, that the King wrote to the Barons of Suffolk to assist the inhabitants in stopping it. It is observable that the coast is here destitute of rocks; and the principal part of Dunwich being built on a hill, consisting of loam and sand of a loose nature, it is not surprising that the surges of the sea, beating against the foot of the precipice, easily undermined it. The church of St. Felix and the cell of monks were lost very early. In the first year of Edward III. the old port was rendered entirely useless; and before the twenty-third year of that King's reign, great part of the town, with upwards of 400 houses which paid rent to the fee-farm, with certain shops and windmills, were devoured by the sea. After this, the church of St. Leonard was overthrown; and in the fourteenth century the churches of St. Martin and St. Nicholas were also destroyed by the waves. In 1540, the church of St. John Baptist was taken down; and in the same century the chapels of St. Anthony, St. Francis, and St. Catherine were overthrown, with the south gate and guild gate, and not one quarter of the town left standing. In the reign of Charles I., the foundation of the Temple buildings yielded to the force of the sea, which in 1677 reached the Market-place. In 1680, all the buildings north of Maison Dieu were demolished; and in 1702 the sea extended its dominion to St. Peter's Church, on which it was divested of the lead, timber, bells, &c., the walls only remaining, which tumbled over the cliff as the water undermined them; the Town-hall suffered the same fate. In 1715 the gaol was undermined; and in 1729 the farthest bounds of St. Peter's churchyard fell into the sea. Besides, the Cock and Hen Hills, which the preceding summer were upwards of forty feet high, had their heads levelled with their bases, and the foundation of St. Francis' Chapel was discovered.

All Saints', as shown in the accompanying view, is the only church of any portion is now standing. It was built of flint and freestone. The square tower is nearly entire; but of the body of the church only a portion of the exterior walls remains, and the cattle have grazed within its area. Part of this edifice was demolished, and its dimensions considerably reduced, about the year 1725. The new chapel of St. James stands at the N.W. of the town, within the grounds formerly belonging to the Hospital of St. James; and owes its foundation and completion to the munificence of the Barne family, in 1830.

Dunwich is now a mere village; it stands upon a cliff of considerable height, commanding an extensive view of the German Ocean, about five miles south of Southwold.

H. W.

THE COUNTY HUNT BALL, AT READING.

This brilliant assembly took place on Thursday the 7th instant, in the handsome hall of the Literary, Scientific, and Mechanics' Institution, at Reading. The spacious room was characteristically decorated for the occasion with several pairs of noble antlers, groups of flowering plants and shrubs, and lighted by means of elegant chandeliers. At about eleven o'clock, when the company had assembled, the Hall presented a very gay appearance. The number of guests present were about two hundred; of the families of Alfrey, Branchley, Bazalgette, Bishop, Blount, Beach, Babington, Bruxner, Brown, Best, Blandy, Conroy, Coome, Cripps, Cook, Crawshaw, Cameron, Crosby, Dobinson, Du Cane, Eyston, East, Evans, Fowler, Fellowes, Fuller, Griffith, Greig, Gwyn, Gardner, Graham, Garth, Harper, Hayward, Hore, Homfrey, Hawkins, Hunter, Harrison, Hartley, Hand, Heathcote, Hamner, Johnson, Jodrell, Jolliffe, Kendall, Lane, Leigh, Monck, Murray, Mainwaring, Mostyn, Mount, Molyneux, Otway, Palmer, Pechell, Powys, Pigott, Pole, Riddle, Romaine, Russell, Ramsbottom, Stephens, Stocker, Smith, Sivewright, Slocock, St. John, Sherson, Slater, Salis, Sartis, Strong, Thoyts, Taylor, Upwood, Wells, Walmesley, Wyld, Weinhold, Wieble, Walsh. The music was excellent; the effective band, under the direction of Mr. Ireland, performed with great spirit. The refreshments were served by Messrs. Harris, of Reading, in their best style, and the whole entertainment passed off with great *éclat*.

The hall in which the Hunt Ball is annually held is a superb room, of about 90 feet by 40 feet, with an elliptical ceiling, and lighted by eighteen large windows in the roof, giving an unbroken surface of wall round the entire room; except that the east end, over the platform, is ornamented by a handsome circular window of coloured glass. At the opposite end has recently been added a gallery or balcony, capable of accommodating 120 persons. The walls are papered in crimson and oak panels. The sound (which, before the erection of the gallery, was somewhat complained of) is now exceedingly good. The hall is one of the finest rooms in the provinces, and is a specimen of the public spirit of the townspeople, it having been erected by a capital of £5000, raised in £5 shares. Attached is a suite of rooms occupied by the Literary, Scientific, and Mechanics' Institution, who hold their meetings and lectures in the hall. A new musical society has recently given its first concert here, with a band of seventy local performers.

CONFLAGRATION AT MANCHESTER.—DESTRUCTION OF ALL SAINTS' CHURCH.

A fire broke out on Wednesday evening, the 6th instant, in All Saints' Church, Manchester, by which a great portion of the edifice was destroyed. The church

is situated in Grosvenor-square, and surrounded by an extensive cemetery, enclosed by palisades: it was bounded on the north-west by Devonshire-street, south-east by Cavendish-street, the other sides fronting Oxford-road and Ormond-street. The fire was discovered about half-past five, by the daughter of one of the Apparitors. She immediately informed Mr. Hopkins, a son-in-law of the Rev. Dr. Burton, the incumbent, who, at the time, happened to be in the vestry; and, finding the girl's statement to be too true, he immediately gave the alarm at the station of the D division of police, Town-hall, Chorlton-upon-Medlock, immediately opposite the church. Mr. Superintendent Taylor lost no time in immediately despatching a messenger to the police-yard for the assistance of the fire-brigade, when Mr. Rose repaired to the scene of the disaster, accompanied by a strong body of men and seven fire engines. The engines were stationed in the yard attached to the church; four of them, the Vesta, Neptune, Mersey, and Waterwitch, were placed at the north-west or tower end of the building; the branch from the latter being taken up into the tower, which was, at one time, in imminent danger. The Thames, Niagara, and Ganges engines were situated at the south-east end of the church. A plentiful supply of water having been obtained, the men were dispersed over the various parts of the building. Jets were placed at the four corners of the interior; and it is to this judicious arrangement that the preservation of the galleries and a part of the organ are to be attributed. During the fire the wind blew with great violence



FIRE IN ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, AT MANCHESTER.

RAILWAY INTELLIGENCE.

GREAT WESTERN.—February 14: Half-yearly Meeting: London: Charles Russell, Esq., in the chair.—A report was presented, which stated that the result of the half-year's traffic, after deducting the rents and balance of interest paid, was to leave £196,393 9s. 11d. at the disposal of the proprietors; out of which the directors recommended the payment of a dividend at the rate of four per cent. per annum, and the carrying over of the balance of £39,703 9s. 11d. to the credit of the next half-year's account. The directors had entered into an arrangement for taking the sole control of the Wilts, Somerset, and Weymouth line, by which the expense of a separate establishment for that line would be saved. By that arrangement, also, the holders of the Wilts Company would be secured an annuity of four per cent. on their shares, subject to an increase whenever the Great Western Company paid more than eight per cent. The negotiations with the South Wales Company for a modified lease of the line, on its being reduced to a line from Gloucester to Swansea, and for saving expenditure in the railways between Oxford and Birmingham and Wolverhampton, were still proceeding with the respective companies; and the directors entertained a hope they would be settled to the satisfaction of the proprietors. With regard to the Oxford, Worcester, and Wolverhampton line, an order had been received from the railway commissioners to complete it; but the matter required great consideration, and the proprietors might rely on every consideration being paid to their interests. The accounts showed that on the capital account the amount received on shares was £7,930,483 19s. 5d., and on debentures, loans, &c., £4,356,663 17s. 7d., making together £12,287,147 12s., of which there had been expended £13,238,411 2s. 9d.; leaving a balance in hand of £48,746 14s. 3d. The report of the engineer stated that the Wilts line would be ready for opening to Frome in the course of the summer, and the Oxford and Rugby line as soon as the permanent way could be completed. The works and permanent way of the lines opened were all in the best possible condition. The report was adopted. The report of the committee of consultation, presented about a fortnight since, referred to the directors with an instruction to carry out such of its recommendations as they could, and to state at the next meeting their reasons for not carrying out those which they might think undesirable; and the dividend declared payable on the 1st of March. The meeting was then made special, when the paid-up shares were ordered to be converted into capital stock; and the agreement entered into with the Wilts, Somerset, and Weymouth Company confirmed. Thanks were voted to the chairman, the directors, and the committee of consultation.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.—February 14: Half-yearly Meeting: London: Sir Harry Verney, Bart., M.P., in the chair.—The report stated that the total receipts had amounted to £941,880, and the expenses for the purposes of the Buckinghamshire Railway, £933,597; leaving a balance at the bankers of £8,283. The works on the Banbury line were progressing rapidly to completion, and, but for some unexpected delay in obtaining the land for the station at Banbury, the line might be opened for traffic in March next. The works on the Oxford line had been very vigorously proceeded with, and that line might be opened as far as Islip early in the ensuing summer. A bill for the improvement of the line had been brought in and read a second time in the House of Commons, and the directors hoped it would pass without opposition. Resolutions were then passed adopting the report, re-electing the retiring directors and auditors, and recording a vote of thanks to the Rev. Mr. Freemantle, for his gratuitous services as minister on that line. The meeting was then made special for the purposes of reading and approving the bill. A vote of thanks to the chairman concluded the business of the meeting.

LONDON AND BLACKWALL.—The report of the directors was issued on Thursday night, and states the gross revenue for the half-year at £24,303, the expenditure, £18,849; leaving a surplus of £5453, which, with the balance from the previous account, of £3162, admits of the payment of a dividend of 1s. 6d. a share, free of Income-tax. The directors state that they have been unable to come to any arrangement with the Eastern Counties Company for the use of the extension line, and they have been compelled to apply to Parliament for power to open the City terminus on their own account.

DIRECT EXETER, PLYMOUTH, AND DEVONPORT.—On Saturday the Master in Chancery Sir W. Horne proceeded with the list of shareholders in this undertaking, and placed upon the list as liable several of the provisional committee, on the ground of their having lent their names to the public promotion of the scheme.

DENDRE VALLEY.—An order in Chancery has just been issued for the winding up of this company's affairs.

RAILWAY ACTS FOR 1849.—From a return just made to an order of the House of Commons, it appears that during the past session thirty-four railway acts were obtained, of which four were for amalgamations, leases, &c.; three, purchase, &c. of canals, docks, piers, harbours, &c.; five, extension of time and sundry amendments of acts; ten, deviations, extensions, and other works requiring new capital; six, branches requiring new capital: one for the dissolution of a company (the East Lothian Central); and five for additional capital for works previously authorised. The total decrease of mileage occasioned by the above acts is 6 miles 7½ chains; the total increase of capital, £2,560,500; and of loans, £594,832; together, £3,155,332. Two acts were also passed incorporating companies for railways in India: viz. the Great Indian Peninsular, with a capital of £500,000, and power to borrow £166,666; and the East Indian, with a capital of £12,000,000.

RAILWAY RECEIPTS.—From a return just published by order of the House of Commons, it appears that for the year ending the 30th of June, 1849, the total receipts on the railways, the length of railway at the close of the year being 2343 miles, were £6,209,714, or in round numbers, £2650 per mile; for the year ending June 30, 1848, with 2765 miles open, £7,565,569 or £2736 per mile; for the year ending June 30, 1847, with 3503 miles open, £8,510,886, or £2362 per mile; for the year ending June 30, 1846, with 4478 miles open, £9,934,552, or £2218 per mile; and for the year ending June 30, 1845, with 5447 miles open, £11,200,901, or £2056 per mile. We may observe that, as we have taken the number of miles open on the last day of each period for our calculations, the amount actually earned per mile will not be perfectly accurate—which only could be obtained by a series of averages, for which the return does not afford sufficient material; but it is sufficiently close to enable our readers to judge of the fluctuations in the amount of traffic as the extension lines have been opened up.

RAILWAY BILLS ON STANDING ORDERS.—On Monday the standing orders were declared to be complied with in the following cases:—Dundalk and Enniskillen Railway, for extension of time as to the line between Castleblaney and Ballinay, fixing the capital at £406,800 in 1356 shares of £30 each, extinguishing 1440 shares, with power to borrow one-third part of the amount of the capital. The Glasgow, Kilmarnock, and Ardrossan, for extension of time, abandonment of works, and reduction of capital. South Staffordshire, for power to lease. The Select Committee of Standing Orders, to whom all cases of non-compliance from the Courts of Examiners were referred, report that the standing orders may be dispensed with in the following cases:—West Cornwall Railway; Cambridge and Shepreth Junction Railway; Oxford, Worcester, and Wolverhampton, and Birmingham and Oxford and Great Western Railways; South Wales (No. 2) Railway; Shrewsbury and Hereford Railway; Exeter and Crediton Railway; and Eastern Union Railway.

VICTORIA DOCKS (OPPOSITE WOOLWICH).—On Monday the standing orders were declared to be complied with by the promoters of this measure, for the construction of a dock on the north side of the Thames.

LONDON AND NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY.—HONESTY REWARDED.—It appears the number of articles returned by the 67 cabs employed at the Euston-square station, for the past year, is 381, consisting chiefly of carpets, bags, wrappers, coats, umbrellas, and money. Of the articles, 115 were claimed by the owners; the remainder has been deposited at the Excise Office, according to law. The finance committee of the London and North-Western Company have given, "as a mark of the directors' approval of their conduct," a gratuity of 12 of the men who returned money paid to them in mistake.

DEPUTATION TO LORD JOHN RUSSELL ON THE PAPER DUTIES.—On Tuesday a deputation of gentlemen, representing paper-makers, publishers, and printers, in England and Scotland, had an interview with Lord John Russell, in Downing-street. Among those present were Mr. Charles Cowan, M.P.; Mr. T. B. Crompton, of Farnworth, Lancashire; Mr. Baldwin, of Sherborne Mill, Birmingham; Mr. Thomas Wrigley, of Bury, Lancashire; Mr. James Durham and Mr. Henry Bruce, Edinburghshire; Mr. Robert Chambers, of Edinburgh; Mr. Charles Knight and Mr. W. S. Orr, of London. The deputation was accompanied by Mr. Hume, M.P.; and by Mr. Scholefield and Mr. Blair, the members respectively for Birmingham and Bolton.

BARON ROTHSCHILD AND THE LONDON ELECTION.—Pursuant to the Act 11 and 12 Vict., c. 98, to amend the law for the trial of election petitions, notice has been given that a select committee to try and determine the matter of the petition, complaining of an undue election and return for the city of London, will be chosen by the general committee of elections on Tuesday, the 5th day of March, at three o'clock, in the afternoon, in committee room (lettered A) of the House of Commons. All parties interested are directed to attend the said general committee of elections, by themselves, their counsel, or agents, at the time and place above mentioned.

THE RIOTS IN CEYLON.—The select committee on public petitions agreed to the following resolution at their meeting on Monday last:—"Resolved, that the petition from Ceylon, purporting to be signed by 37,965 inhabitants of that colony, setting forth various circumstances connected with the late riots in the colony, complaining of the measures that were adopted by the Government, and of the severity and illegality of the punishments inflicted upon the offenders under colour of martial-law, and also of grievances under which the inhabitants of that island suffer, and praying for redress, which was presented upon the 6th day of this instant February, is a petition which ought to be printed for the use of members only; and that a special report be made to this effect."

MR. ADAMS'S FOURTEENTH ANNUAL BALL was given at Willis's Rooms, on Tuesday night, and was attended by from 300 to 400 persons. Mr. Adams's band comprised thirty performers; and among the great attractions was the Gipsy Quadrille, with vocal accompaniments. Dancing was kept up with great spirit until past five o'clock on Wednesday morning.

ROYAL THAMES YACHT CLUB BALL.—The annual ball of this distinguished club was held at the Hanover-square Rooms on Thursday (St. Valentine's Day), according to custom. The élite of the members of the club, with their ladies, were present; and we recognised among the company the noble Commodore, Lord Alfred Paget, with most of the officers. Mr. Julien with his celebrated band attended. The large room was much crowded, nearly five hundred persons being present; and the want of ventilation was the only cause of complaint. The supper, wines, &c., provided by Mr. Hewitt, were excellent. Dancing was continued until after five o'clock on Friday morning.

METROPOLITAN NEWS.

ST. MARLYBONE BANK FOR SAVINGS.—The twentieth annual general meeting of this institution was held on Thursday. The Rev. John Hume Spry, D.D., in the chair. It appeared from the several reports read to the meeting, that during the past year no less than 2487 new deposits had been made; 20,382 deposit accounts remained open on the 30th of November last, of which 15,495 held balances averaging less than £3 1s. 4d. each. The balance due to depositors was stated to be £316,210 15s.

SOCIETY FOR IMPROVING THE CONDITION OF THE INSANE.—On Wednesday last, this society, at its annual meeting, distributed its rewards to those attendants on the insane whose testimonials of long service and good character and conduct were most satisfactory. The chief prizes were given to the attendants belonging to the Surrey County Asylum.

PUBLIC DISPENSARY, BISHOP'S-COURT, LINCOLN'S INN.—A meeting of the governors and subscribers of this institution took place on Tuesday, at the Dispensary House.—Mr. Richard Twining in the chair. The report stated that during the last quarter 1173 patients had been admitted to this dispensary, of which number 264 had been visited at their own homes. The advantages to the poorer classes of having a physician and surgeon attending them at their own homes could not be too highly appreciated, and the aid and efficient services this charity had effected in this particular had sufficiently demonstrated that this mode of assisting the poor was by far the most desirable and acceptable. The establishment was progressing most favourably, and they fully anticipated a removal from their present quarters to a more eligible position.

METROPOLITAN COMMISSIONERS OF SEWERS.—A district court of the Metropolitan Commissioners of Sewers was appointed to be held on Tuesday, at the Town-hall, Poplar, for the purpose of hearing appeals against the sewer rate made upon that district. It appears that from time immemorial a large portion of the parish of All Saints, Poplar, has never been rated to the sewer rate, several parts of it being without any sewerage, except what is afforded by an open ditch, which discharges into the Thames near the West India Docks. A former commission of sewers endeavoured to rate the parish, which was resisted by the parochial authorities, and an action ensued. The case was tried by the late Lord Tenterden, the jury being of opinion that the parish was not liable to the rate, and no rate has been paid. About six months since, however, the present commissioners of sewers rated the parish, which was resisted, and Tuesday was appointed for hearing the parties against it. The large hall was completely crowded, Mr. Leadham, the barrister, and several solicitors, being in attendance. The court was called for two o'clock; but a quarter to three arrived, and only one commissioner (Mr. Hardwick) was in attendance. Mr. Hardwick (accompanied by Mr. Woolrych, the secretary) then entered the room, and stated that he regretted to be compelled to announce to the gentlemen present that no court could be held that day. The provisions of the Metropolitan Sewers Act required that six commissioners should be present to form a court, which was half their entire number, one of them having been removed by death. They had had a committee of three hours' duration that morning, which might account for their absence. A ratepayer wished to know whether three hours a day was all the commissioners could devote to their business.—Mr. Hardwick said the commissioners had other public duties, and it should be borne in mind that the Commissioners of Sewers were entirely unpaid. He had no power or authority to proceed, but he trusted the subject would speedily receive the consideration of Parliament; but in the absence of that power he should, at the expiration of an hour, order the meeting to stand adjourned to a future day. The meeting gave expression to feelings of the great annoyance and expense they had been subjected to, being uselessly brought together through the non-attendance of the commissioners who had made the rate upon them. The meeting then separated.

LONDON ORPHAN ASYLUM.—The annual dinner, held in honour of this institution and in aid of its funds, was held on Tuesday, in the London Tavern, Bishopsgate-street, and was attended by nearly 150 gentlemen. Viscount Hardinge occupied the chair, and was supported by Lieutenant-General Sir William Gomm, Sir Walter C. James, Lord Robert Grosvenor, the Honorable Rice Trevor, &c. After the usual loyal toasts, the chairman, in proposing success to the Orphan Asylum, directed particular attention to the unexclusive character of the charity, and considered it as a high compliment to the general utility of the institution, that the Duke of Wellington had presided on three similar occasions. There had already been upwards of 1830 orphans educated and fitted for intercourse with the world by the asylum, and from the yearly returns it was evident that its sphere of utility was continually increasing. Its healthy character was an important point in the chairman's speech; and it was gratifying to hear that during the late visitation of cholera, not a single case had occurred among the pupils. From funded property they derived an income of about £1600, but upwards of £7000 had annually to be made up by voluntary contributions, the expenses amounting to about £9000. The amount of subscriptions received during dinner was then read, which was much the same as that of last year, namely, about £1600. The noble chairman contributed 30 guineas, and £21 through a lady friend; Sir W. Gomm, £10 10s.; Dr. Ontram, £10 10s.; Messrs. Rothschild, £21; Mr. T. Capel, £21; Mr. W. Wigram, £25; Mr. H. E. Lymes, £21; Mr. W. Kerby, £21, &c. The sum of £34 12s. was sent by persons, now prosperous in circumstances, who had been educated at the asylum.

AMENDMENT OF THE LAW.—At the meeting of the members of the Society for Promoting the Amendment of the Law, held on Monday evening, at the rooms, 21, Regent-street, Mr. T. A. Beckett's plan for the improvement of the law relating to deceased persons' estates was brought under consideration. Mr. Spence, Q.C., occupied the chair. Mr. Beckett explained his scheme as developed in two bills, with the clauses drawn *in extenso*, so as to admit of their being placed at once before the Legislature. The one bill introduces new principles with reference to the rights of parties interested in the deceased person's estate; the other provides a new form of procedure when it becomes necessary to administer the estate under the direction of the Court. Should the alteration recommended in the first be adopted by the Legislature, not only will creditors be disabled from obtaining preferences over each other after the decease of their debtor, but the distinction drawn between specialty and simple-contract creditors, existing at the time of such decease, will be done away with; all priorities, in every form or shape, will be put an end to; and the estate of a deceased insolvent will be divided among his creditors upon the same principles as those which govern the division of the estate of a living bankrupt. The clauses of the second bill are framed very closely upon the model of the new Bankrupt Act, substituting a petition for administration for a petition for adjudication in bankruptcy. The parties entitled to set the Court in motion are creditors and personal representatives: the former, if they can show the Court a sufficient cause for its interference; the latter, if they require and ask its assistance. When estates are unadministered, they are to be at once taken possession of by the Court. An official receiver is to be appointed, answering to the character of an official assignee in bankruptcy; creditors' administrators are to be chosen as creditors' assignees are chosen in bankruptcy; debts are to be proved, assets to be got in, dividends declared, and parties examined, as in bankruptcy; in fact, the whole machinery of the Bankrupt Act is brought into action wherever it would be useful in ascertaining the extent of, and the getting in and dividing, the deceased person's estate among his creditors. The proposed alterations elicited considerable approval from the chairman and others. Want of time, however, caused an adjournment of a fortnight, when, if approved, the bills are to be immediately placed in the hands of some member of Parliament. Messrs. Samuel Warren, C. Boyle, and T. Sanders were elected members of the society. The meeting broke up about ten o'clock.

THE CITY COURT OF SEWERS.—A meeting of the commissioners was held on Tuesday, Mr. Deputy Peacock in the chair. Mr. Simon was unanimously re-elected medical officer of the City of London for the next year. The Chief Clerk was directed, by a majority of 18 to 13, to sign and seal the deed of agreement between the Commissioners of Sewers and the Great Central Gas Consumers' Company.

EQUALISATION OF THE LAND TAX.—On Monday, at a meeting of the Commissioners of the Land Tax acting for the Holborn division, specially convened to consider an application made by a gentleman named Mayes, for the re-hearing of an appeal made by him against his assessment for land-tax, which was heard a few weeks since, and decided adversely to the appellant, it was resolved, in accordance with the 7th section of the act 38 Geo. 3, cap. 5, that the appeal, having been once decided, could not be re-opened; but the following important resolution, moved by Mr. Coppock, and seconded by Mr. Ramsden, was carried with only one dissentient:—"That this board recommend that a general meeting of the Commissioners of Land Tax acting in and for the county of Middlesex be held on or before the 30th day of April next, for the purpose of ascertaining and setting down in writing the several proportions which ought to be charged upon every hundred, lathe, wapentake, rape, ward, or other division within the said county, for and towards the raising and making up the whole amount of land tax charged upon the said county of Middlesex by the act of Geo. 3, c. 5." A committee of five members of the Court was then appointed to carry out the object in view.

ROYAL LONDON OPHTHALMIC HOSPITAL.—On Monday the annual general meeting of this charity was held at the Hospital, Blomfield-street, Moorfields; the Rev. John Russell, D.D., presiding. From the medical report it appeared that the total number of out-patients for the year 1849 was 8418; being an increase over the preceding year of 36. Those received into the hospital amounted to 268—making the number of in and out-patients 8686. The financial sheet showed the receipts to have been on the whole £1539; of which £265 resulted from dividends, and £1273 from donations and subscriptions. The sum invested in various securities was £8379. The report was adopted, the name of Sir John Poland added to the committee for the year ensuing, auditors elected, and thanks voted to the medical staff, after which the meeting broke up.

PAROCHIAL EXPENDITURE.—A meeting of the ratepayers of the parishes of St. Giles-in-the-Fields and St. George's, Bloomsbury, took place in the Music Hall, Store-street, Bedford-square, on Thursday evening, to promote the adoption of the act, commonly called Hobhouse's Act, for the better regulation of vestries, and with a view of reducing the parochial expenditure. Luke James Hansard, Esq., in the chair. Resolutions were carried to the effect that the ratepayers of these parishes had an undoubted right to possess an efficient controul over the parochial expenditure, the funds of which they were called upon to provide; that the local act did not furnish that means of controul; that it was desirable to place the management of the parochial affairs under the direction of a vestry constituted pursuant to an act of 2nd of King William, commonly known as Hobhouse's Act, to secure for the parishioners a remedy for the evils complained of; and to secure to the parishioners a more direct influence over the expenditure; and that a subscription be entered into in aid of the funds to carry out the above-named objects. A vote of thanks to the chairman concluded the business of the evening.

SOCIÉTÉ FRANÇAISE DE BIENFAISANCE.—The ninth annual ball in aid of this benevolent association—founded in 1842—took place on Monday night, at the Queen's Concert-Room, Hanover-square. The praiseworthy object of this institution is to assist all deserving distressed French residents in London, and, where necessary, to send them gratuitously to France. During the past year 49,044 lb. of bread have been distributed; 5997 persons have received assistance in money; 266 have been sent back to France; and a great number have obtained situations and clothing owing to the influence of the society. A charity boasting so much usefulness might fairly claim to the sympathy of our countrymen, and we rejoice to be enabled to add that a goodly muster assembled last night to testify their appreciation of its objects. The stewards made excellent arrangements for the ball, and the festivities were prolonged to a late hour on Tuesday morning.

DISTRESSED NEEDLEWOMEN.—PRISON LABOUR.—A requisition, signed by upwards of 250 of the most respectable firms in the City and West-end of the town, and addressed to Mr. Alderman Farebrother, in his character of President of the Society for the Relief of the Distressed Needlewomen of the Metropolis, was issued a few days ago, in which the requisitionists state that they "have learnt, through the practical exertions of the Society for the Relief of the Distressed Needlewomen, that the system of workhouse labour has been discontinued, but the greater evil still exists, namely, that of prison labour, to the great detriment of those dependent on their honest industry. Desirous of publicly expressing our opinion against this system of prison labour, to the prejudice of the honest mechanic, we respectfully and most earnestly request you will be good enough to preside at a public meeting, at your convenience, and we pledge ourselves to support you on that occasion." In compliance with the requisition, the president of the society convened a public meeting, which was held on Tuesday afternoon, in the Hanover-square Rooms, and was very numerous and respectfully attended. Among those on the platform were Mr. Charles Pearson, M.P.; Mr. Charles Cochrane, Mr. Lloyd, Mr. G. F. Carden, and many influential gentlemen connected with the West-end trade.—Alderman Farebrother, in opening the proceedings, stated his opinion that it was only necessary to show to the Government, through the necessity of such a step as that for which they were assembled, to put an end to the present system of prison labour, which operated so injuriously to the industrious, honest, and hard-working artisan. (Hear, hear.) His (Alderman F.'s) experience told him that the great portion of crime arose, not from inclination, but from poverty; and it was distressing to think that while the honest artisan was starving outside the walls of a prison, the criminal was rewarded by being kept within the goal in a state of comparative comfort. (Cheers.) At the present moment—and he was sorry to have to make such an admission—the criminal was better fed than the pauper. (Cheers.) Crime rested on the want of labour, and he must say that poverty was borne by the great masses of the industrious population with a degree of patience that must ultimately work good. (Hear, hear.) Mr. Nicholay moved the following resolution:—

"That this meeting (being fully aware of the great disadvantage under which the artisan and needlewoman labour, in consequence of the employment of prisoners in the making up of clothes, &c. for contractors, slopellers, and that while protection is afforded to the criminal, his under-pressed work is brought into competition with free labour, thereby reducing the prices and rendering it almost an impossibility for the poor but honest classes to obtain a livelihood for themselves and families, proceeding from the want of employment, pauperism, prostitution, and general crime) desires earnestly to submit, for the consideration of her Majesty's Government, the absolute necessity of discontinuing such employment, experience having shown that the cessation of needlework in the workhouses and charitable institutions has, to a certain degree, ameliorated the condition of the sempsters."

The motion was supported in speeches from several gentlemen, and was then unanimously agreed to. On the motion of Mr. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Lloyd, the following noblemen and gentlemen were appointed a deputation (with power to add to their numbers) to wait upon Sir George Grey:—Lord Robert Grosvenor, M.P.; Lord Dudley Stuart, M.P.; Mr. B. B. Cabell, M.P.; Mr. Alderman Farebrother, Mr. Nicholay, Mr. Reynolds, and Mr. Underwood.

RELIEF BY THE POOR-LAW.—The total number relieved by parochial aid in England and Wales on the 1st of January, 1849, was 1,104,526, and on the 1st of January, 1850, 1,033,812, being a decrease of 70,714. The total number of adult paupers relieved, both in-door and out-door, on the 1st of January, 1849, was 201,644, of whom 52,441 were widows receiving out-door relief; and on the 1st of January, 1850, 170,502, of whom 53,151 were widows—showing a decrease on the whole, as compared with the 1st of January, 1849, of 31,142, or 15½ per cent. The total expenditure for the relief of the poor for the year ended Lady Day, 1849, was £5,792,953, being a reduction, as compared with the preceding year, of £337,802, or 5½ per cent. In the course of the year, five new unions have been formed—namely, the Bedwely Union, in the county of Monmouth; the Samford Union, in the county of Suffolk; the Penulstone and Barnsley Unions, in the West Riding of Yorkshire; and the Barton-upon-Irwell Union, in the county of Lancaster.

METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLY.—The following Extract Minute from the proceedings of the General Board of Health, on the 7th instant, has been presented to both Houses of Parliament by command of her Majesty:—The Board having had under consideration the applications proposed to be made to Parliament for private acts to authorise new trading companies to raise capital for supplying water to the metropolis: Resolved—That it has been established by the Commissioners for improving into the means of improving the Health of Towns, as a general principle of legislation, which has been confirmed by subsequent inquiries, made under the Metropolitan Sanitary Commission, and adopted by the Legislature as a fundamental provision of the Public Health Act, and which, so far as this Board has proceeded with its own investigations, appears to be equally applicable to the metropolis, that the works for supplying the public with water should be under the same public jurisdiction or management with works of drainage, paving, and surface cleansing. That, apart from the merits of any particular scheme of new water-works, and pending further investigations as to the practical means of applying the foregoing principle to the metropolis, it is inexpedient to sanction the investment of fresh capital in the same field of supply, as it is probable that the new works will have to be re-purchased, and there can be no security that these will be applicable to the arrangements that may be hereafter recommended: Resolved—That a copy of these resolutions be transmitted to her Majesty's principal Secretary of State for the Home Department.

NUMEROUS FIRES.—On Wednesday afternoon, shortly before two o'clock, a fire occurred on the premises belonging to Mr. Wilcoxon, paper-stainer, situate in Lant-street, Southwark. The flames commenced in the first-floor workshop of a spacious building extending over three houses, and were caused as follows:—The workmen, having gone to dinner, left a great quantity of paper on the frames to dry. The draught from one of the open windows caused one of the lengths to fall against a patent stove, and it instantly became ignited, together with other pieces of paper, and in less than five minutes the spacious floor presented one immense sheet of flame. The fire was not extinguished until the whole of the stock in trade was destroyed and the premises seriously injured.—On the same evening, about half-past eight o'clock, a fire broke out in the premises of Mrs. Mary Piel, a baker and corn-chandler, No. 3, Brook-street, Ratcliffe. It commenced in the hay store, over the bakehouse, and soon assumed an alarming aspect—attacking the melting premises belonging to Mr. Truelove, tallow-chandler, No. 1, White Horse-street. The fire was ultimately extinguished, but not before a serious destruction of property had taken place at Mrs. Piel's, and the premises of Mr. Truelove had been damaged by fire and water. Both parties were insured.—Three other fires occurred: one in the Liverpool-road, another in Lillington-street, Pimlico, and the third in Great Windmill-street, Haymarket; but the damage done at each was trifling.

THE WRECK OF THE "PALMYRA."—IMPORTATION OF THE CARGO.—The steamer *Seine*, arrived in the river from Boulogne, has brought 516 chests and 37 bags of tea, and the steamer *Abdon*, from the same French port, has brought 1009 chests of tea, 53 packages of China ware, and some other merchandise, being portions of the cargo of the ship *Palmyra*, lately wrecked off Boulogne, on her passage from China to London. Another portion of the cargo, comprising several hundred packages of tea, had previously arrived by the steamer *City of Boulogne*, consigned to the proper parties in the metropolis.

BIRTHS AND DEATHS.—The births registered last week in the metropolis were:—Males, 785; females, 712; total, 1497. Average of five weeks:—Males, 751; females, 707; total, 1458. The deaths were 957—a number which exhibits a considerable decrease on the returns of the last two months, December and January, during which the deaths were usually above 1050, and, in one week, were 1156. The result is also favourable as compared with the average, corrected for increase of population, of corresponding weeks in ten previous years, 1840-49, which is 1144, showing a decrease of 187. The sudden decline in the mortality from diseases of the respiratory organs is remarkable; bronchitis, pneumonia, and asthma have numbered in the last three weeks successively, 237, 234, and 165 deaths; the average for last week, derived from the returns of the same week in ten years, is 187; or, if corrected for population, 204. But the deaths from phthisis (or consumption) have scarcely varied; they have been in the last three weeks 128, 137, and 135 respectively; the average of last week for this disease is 155. The deaths enumerated in the zymotic or epidemic class of diseases were 152; the corrected average is 215. Small-pox was fatal last week to 8 children, scarlatina to 11, hooping-cough to 36, measles to 18—all of these epidemics being under the average, and the first two being much less fatal than usual. Diarrhoea was fatal in 20 cases: in the corresponding weeks of ten years, the deaths from it have ranged from 3 to 39, and show a decided tendency to increase in later years. No deaths occurred in the week from cholera. From typhus there were 27—a comparatively light mortality from this cause. From influenza there were 2 deaths; from erysipelas, 10; from cancer, 17 deaths, of which all except three occurred to women; and 9 women died after childbirth. In two persons fatal disease is stated to have been the result of intemperance. The death of a woman of 47 years, which occurred in January, was accelerated by "distention and exposure to extreme cold." She had been previously removed to Bethnal-green workhouse.

POISONOUS CONFECTIONARY.—In the Registrars' reports for the past week we find that Mr. Leonard, of Charing-cross (sub-district), reports the death of a boy of eight years, in Princes-court, who died of "gastritis after 11 days' illness, having been seized suddenly with intense pain, vomiting, and purging, after eating some pie-crust picked up in the streets." He further adds, that "this child and another (who partook of a smaller quantity) were similarly affected. The former was taken in the first place to a public institution, and the symptoms were attributed by his friends to a fall; but on the day of his death the other fact was communicated, and a post mortem examination proved that he had been poisoned. The other child is slowly recovering."

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.—The mean height of the barometer in the week, at the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, was 29.457 in. The mean temperature was 44 deg., showing an excess of 1.67 deg. on the average of the same week of seven years. It was higher than the average throughout the week. On Sunday the mean temperature was 12 deg. above the average, and on Friday and Saturday 14 deg. above it.



WRECK OF AN INDIAMAN.

THE scene of desolation which our great marine painter, the late Mr. Daniell, has here so fearfully portrayed, has, it is feared, been paralleled in the calamities of the past week.

On Sunday night last, another violent gale from the W.S.W. visited London and its suburbs, and, up to ten o'clock on Monday night, continued with alarming force. The wind gauge at Lloyd's fully illustrated its fury, the pressure on the face attached to the apparatus on the summit of the Royal Exchange being, in the course of Monday evening, no less than from 12 lb. to 13 lb., sufficient to excite no ordinary uneasiness for the safety of the shipping.

Among the losses reported is the wreck of a fine West Indiaman, and, it is feared, the loss of all on board of her. On Tuesday, the *Sarah*, Bridges master, bound from Jamaica for London, made the Margate-roads, and in the course of the forenoon was taken in tow by the *Trinity* steam-tug. As the day advanced, the gale sprang up with destructive fury. The ship and the tug laboured sorely; and between three and four o'clock in the afternoon, when running through the

"WRECK OF AN INDIAMAN."—FROM A PICTURE BY MR. DANIELL.

Prince's Channel, the towing hawser snapped asunder, and the ship got adrift. The tug immediately brought up, in the hope that the weather might moderate. The wind, however, continued to increase until it blew a perfect hurricane, and about midnight the steamer was driven from her anchorage. She lost cable and anchor, and was compelled to run for safety. The *Sarah* was then lost sight of, and from the tempestuous weather that prevailed during the following twenty-four hours, and the fact that nothing has been seen of her since, although she was right in the track of vessels trading to and from the river, coupled with the circumstance that a quantity of West India produce has been picked up in the vicinity of where she went adrift, as also pieces of wreck apparently of the same class of vessel, there is little doubt that she perished, with all hands. Several casks of rum have been seen floating about; and Mr. Cullum, the master of the General Steam Navigation Company's ship *Soho*, reports having passed part of the wreck of a ship, a quantity of cocoa-nuts and pimento cakes, about a dozen miles to the eastward of the North Foreland, and consequently almost in the very place the *Sarah* is suspected to have been lost. Whether this wreck belonged to the *Sarah* or not, however, it is evident that a large ship was lost in the neighbourhood. At present the number of the crew has not been ascertained, nor whether there were any passengers on board.

DARJEELING.

IN our Journal of Jan. 26 we gave the details of the arrest, by the Rajah Sikkim, of the British resident at Darjeeling, Dr. Campbell, while making a tour through his territories, accompanied by the eminent botanist, Dr. Hooker.

By intelligence subsequently received, we learn that the Rajah of Sikkim had released Drs. Campbell and Hooker from confinement, and permitted them to return to Darjeeling; though, up to the 17th ultimo, they had not reached that station.

Darjeeling is a sanitary station, situated 371 miles distant from Calcutta, on a ridge of the Sikkim range of the Himalaya Mountains: it commands a magnificent prospect of the snowy range, in which the lofty peak of Kunchin Jinga, said to be 27,000 feet above the level of the sea, is very conspicuous; Darjeeling being 7218 feet.

We have engraved a north-west view of this spot, called, from its beauty, "the Bright Spot." The loftiest peak in the centre is Kunchin Jinga: to the extreme right are the ruins of an ancient Buddhist monastery; and next to them, a recently



DARJEELING, OR "THE BRIGHT SPOT."

THE BRITISH INSTITUTION.

erected Protestant church. The house to the left, with a gabled roof, is the residence of Colonel Lloyd; the large and lofty building to the extreme left is Wilson's Family Hotel; the long building below, to the right, is the Barracks of Sappers and Miners; to the left is a native bazaar; and in the foreground of the view are a Missionary Chapel, and two of the natives with baskets of fowls from the low country.

By the *Hurkaru* of Dec. 3, we learn that Mr. Charles Lushington, of the civil service, lately returned from England, had been ordered to proceed to Darjeeling forthwith, and assume civil and political charge of the station and its relations with the foreign powers.

EXHIBITION OF THE BRITISH INSTITUTION.

The two Pictures engraved upon the present page are of that pleasing domestic class which is sure to attract a great number of admirers. The interest attached to them is simple and natural; and in neither of these instances is the simplicity of the incident spoiled by the mere prettiness of art.

In the first Picture (1 foot 6 inches square), *The Hour-glass*, painted by H. Le Jeune, two children are curiously watching the sand passing through an hour-glass—that homely measurer of time, formerly common in our homes, frequently placed upon pulpits in churches, but now rarely seen save in cottages and rural districts. There is the genuine curiosity of childhood cleverly expressed in each set of features in the picture; they heed not the book before them, but are wonderstruck with the great problem of the running of "the sand of life."

The second picture, *The Rivals*, painted by Sant, is in size 4 ft. 6 in. in height, by 5 ft. 7 in. in width. The scene is on the ice. The object of the Rivals is a coquettish little lady, in her sledge, with a pet dog resting at her feet, upon a costly carpet. One of the suitors, a skater, has evidently, for the moment, gained the fair one's eye, but is jealously watched by the rival suitor, who drives the sledge. The composition is good, and the picture is painted with much breadth and richness of colour.

We are anxious here to correct a misunderstanding of a portion of Mr. Lance's picture (No. 102), "The Jewels and the Gem," in our notice of last week. The little miniature in this picture is not a likeness of the Princess Royal, as we stated, but of Lord Almaric Churchill, the present Duchess of Marlborough's eldest son. All the jewels, caskets, and ornaments are painted from valuable articles in her Grace's possession.

MUSIC.

SACRED HARMONIC SOCIETY.

The performance of Handel's "Saul" is one of the greatest successes achieved by the amateurs at Exeter Hall. The band, as well as the chorus, shared equally

in the glory of a most splendid interpretation of the oratorio, which, in Costa's hands, will prove a most attractive work; the overture, the bell symphony, the dead march, and vocal accompaniments were executed with unerring precision, finish, and spirit. The great choral triumphs were in the fugued finale of the first part, "Preserve him for the glory;" the introduction "How excellent thy name," with its descriptive portions of David's victory over Goliath; the soprano in "David has ten thousand slain;" the grand finale of the second part, "O fatal

consequence;" the appalling "Envy, eldest born of Hell," and "Is there a man;" the plaintive "Mourn, Israel, Doeg;" the "O fatal day," most marvelously given; and the gorgeous "Gird on thy sword," one of Handel's colossal choral conceptions. Mr. Costa abandoned the "additional accompaniments," and left the score of Handel in its primitive state—a judicious act, for it required no colouring, and certainly no brass of modern dictation. The lovely organ of Miss Dolby is heard to perfection in the music of "Saul;" she sings it with devotional feeling and intense expression, especially the three airs in the last part, and the two duos (with Miss Birch) in the second part. The soprano parts of *Michal*, the *Witch of Endor*, and the *Israelite woman*, were sung by Miss Birch effectively. Miss Stewart sang the music of *Merab*. Mr. Phillips was impressive in *Saul*; his scene with the *Witch* was well declaimed. The music of *Jonathan* was artistically rendered by Benson, who only requires more power; that of *Samuel*, *Doeg*, and *Abiathar*, by Mr. Lawler; *Abner* and an *Amalekite*, by Mr. T. Williams. The last part of "Saul" is sublime from beginning to end. In the earlier parts, the bad construction of the poem, with so many recitative duos following in succession, renders the oratorio somewhat wearisome; it would be as well to cut out some of the recitatives and repeat in the earlier portion.

On Friday night, by special desire of Prince Albert, Mendelssohn's "Paul" was performed, for the third time this season.

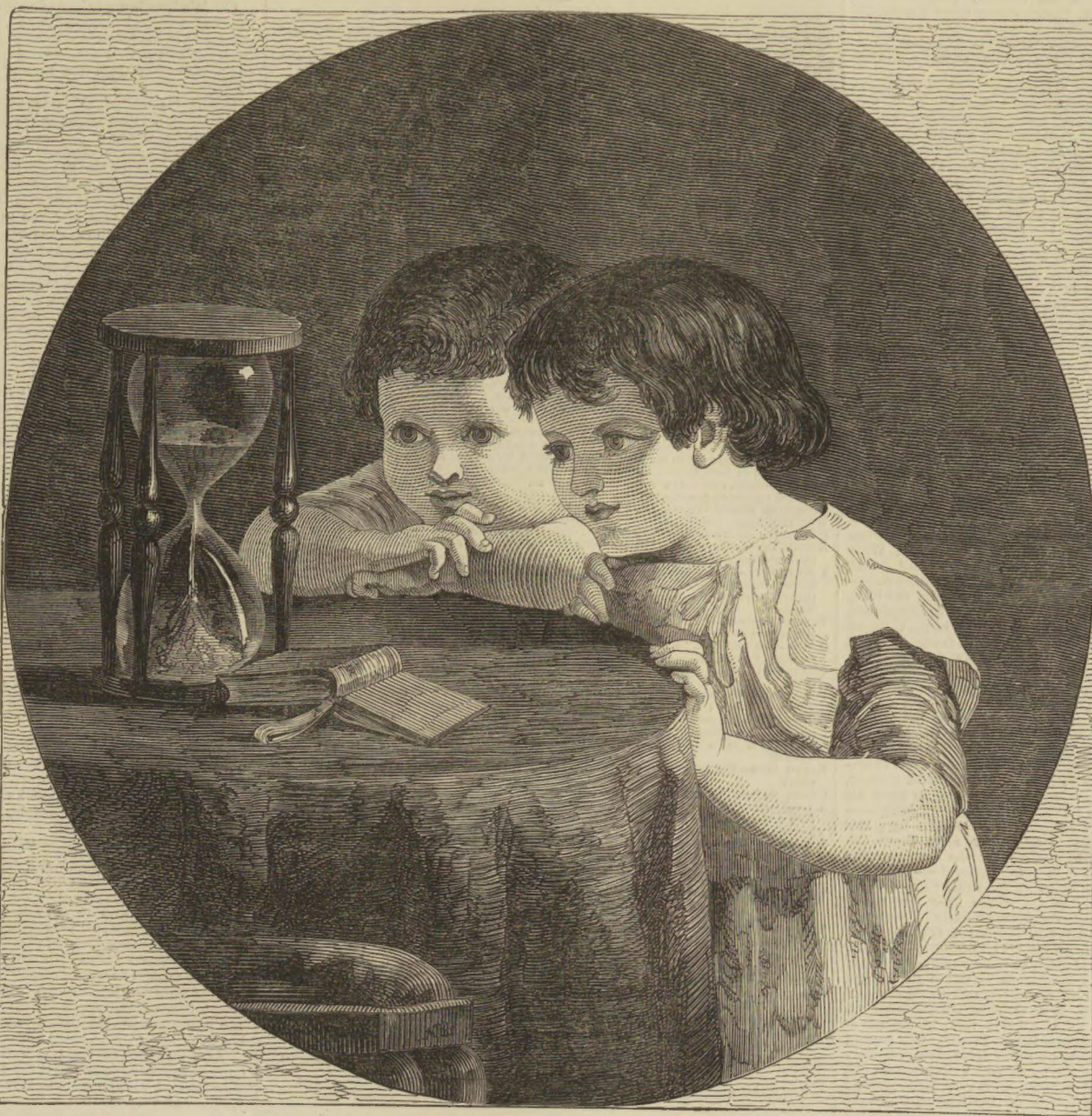
SOCIETY OF BRITISH MUSICIANS.

The third Chamber Concert was given on Saturday night, in the lecture-room, St. Martin's Hall, Mr. James Calkin conductor, and Mr. W. C. Macfarren accompanist. In the scheme were Mozart's quartet in E flat, No. 4, played by Messrs. N. Mori, E. W. Thomas, Weslake, and Guest; Grieg's diatonic for piano-forte (J. H. Griegbach), two violins (Thomas and Mori), tenor (Weslake), violoncello (Guest), double-bass (Rowland), oboe (Nicholson), clarinet (Maycock), horn (C. Harper), and bassoon (Chisholm); C. E. Horsley's M.S. Quartet in D, No. 2; Mozart's Sonata in A, played by Mr. R. Barnett and Mr. E. Thomas, and a portion of Beethoven's Septuor, Op. 20, for violin, tenor, violoncello, contra-basso, clarinet, horn, and bassoon. The vocal selections were by Messrs. W. L. Phillips, G. A. Macfarren, Brinley Richards, Mozart, and Land, sung by Misses Leslie and Thornton, Messrs. Herbert and Ferrari. The diatonic went the best; but more rehearsals would have benefited the execution of many of the pieces. The scherzo of Horsley's quartet is very clever; the subject in the adagio began well, but it was not sufficiently worked out. The duo is not one of Mozart's best, but it was well played.

FOREIGN MUSICAL NEWS.

(From our own Correspondent.)

PARIS, Wednesday.
The discussion respecting the little theatre appropriated to the Conservatoire classes and to the performances of the Société des Concerts, has terminated by the Minister of the Interior (M. Ferdinand Barrot) granting to Mr. Lumley, the



"THE HOUR-GLASS."—PAINTED BY H. LE JEUNE.



"THE RIVALS."—PAINTED BY J. SANT.

Director of Her Majesty's Theatre, the permission to give concerts. This "Salle du Conservatoire" is national property, and it was formerly allotted by the Crown for the purposes above mentioned. For twenty-three years the Société des Concerts has enjoyed its privilege: the Minister has properly decided to allow Mr. Lumley its use, inasmuch as his projected "Concerts Costumes," with Mlle. Sontag, in no way interfere with the Conservatoire concerts and rehearsals.

Duprez sang for the last time on the stage last Wednesday night, at the Grand Opera, in selections from Rossini's "Guillaume Tell" and "Otello." In the first his pristine energy came out in the "Sulve-moi," twice throwing out with extraordinary power his famous *de poitrine*, a feat saluted by the audience with immense acclamations. Mlle. Viardot was the *Desdemona*; her "Romance de Saule" created a great effect. An act of "Il Barbiere" was given by the Italian singers, Mlle. Angri, Lucchesi, Maje, Ki, Ronconi, and Lablache; and the artists of the Théâtre Français played "La Coupe enchantée." The performance, which was in aid of the funds of the pension list for retired artists, did not terminate until two in the morning; and, although the prices of admission were doubled, the theatre was filled to overflow.

Cimarosa's "Matrimonio Segreto" was revived at the Théâtre Italien last Thursday night, with Mlle. Persiani, Mlle. Vera, Mlle. Angri, Signori Lucchesi, Majeski, and Lablache. It was received with much enthusiasm.

At the first performance of the "Prophecie" on the 30th ult. at Dresden, Mlle. Michales was the *Fidis*, and Herr Tichatschek *Jean de Leyden*. The *furor* was unbounded; Meyerbeer was called on the stage, and crowns and bouquets were thrown in profusion; at the end of the fourth act, the King of Saxony sent for the composer to come to the Royal box, and presented him with the Cross of Chevalier of the Order of Merit, with many expressions of Royal satisfaction. Mlle. Wagner is the *Fidis* who is delighting the amateurs at Hamburg.

MUSICAL EVENTS.—The fourth concert of the Society of British Musicians will be given this evening (Saturday).—Handel's "Deborah" will be performed next Monday, by the London Sacred Harmonic Society, conducted by Surman. The vocalists will be Misses Birch, Holroyd, and Kenneth; Messrs. Genie, Walker, W. Seguin, and Lawler. On Tuesday, Mr. W. Sterndale Bennett will commence his annual series of pianoforte *soirées*.—The Amateur Musical Society commence their season on the 25th: the rehearsal will be on the 22nd. Mr. Milne and the Misses Smith gave their second selection of Scotch songs at Crosby Hall and the Music Hall, on Monday and Tuesday. Mr. Willy is about to commence a series of concerts at St. Martin's Hall, with a full orchestra, for the performance of Beethoven's Symphonies. The seventeenth of the London Wednesday Concerts was given on the 13th, at Exeter Hall: these entertainments are to take place monthly at Greenwich, the first of which was given last Monday. At the Sussex Hall, in the City, an evening concert was given on the 11th, conducted by Mr. Maurice Davis, at which Mlle. Macner, Misses Lucombe, Dolby, and A. Taylor, and Mr. Leffler sang; and Miss Wolf, Mr. Richardson, and Mr. G. Case were the solo instrumentalists.

At the Marylebone Institution, on Monday last, Mr. G. Buckland delivered a lecture on Musical Characteristics. Sir H. R. Bishop will commence a series of lectures on Music, next week, at the Polytechnic Institution. M. Billot's third *salon musicale* took place last Tuesday, at the Beethoven Rooms; and on Thursday, Mr. Cooper (the violinist) and Mr. Hancock (the violoncellist) held their second attractive classical meeting at Exeter Hall. Ernst played on Thursday, at a concert in the Greenwich Lecture Hall; Miss Lucombe, Mlle. Macner, and Mr. Reeves being the principal singers. Mr. Henry Phillips gave his musical entertainment this week at Hastings, St. Leonard's, and Brighton.

The Glee Club met at the memory of its late president, Sir Felix Booth, the "Cloud-capped towers" was sung. The subscriptions for the Philharmonic Concerts of the forthcoming season have been in great demand. Thalberg has selected the singers for the choros of Her Majesty's Theatre for the ensuing season. Balfie has returned to London from Berlin, where his "Bondman" has met with such success. The King of Prussia has engaged Balfie to return to Berlin, on his birthday in 1850, to produce "The Bohemian Girl."—The "Record of the Fifth Season of the Musical Union for 1849," edited by Mr. Ella, has just been published by Cramer, Beale, and Co. To the amateur desirous of having some very useful information for reference as to music in London during the past season, and of possessing a clever analysis of chamber music, this work will be very useful.

To prove how classical compositions are appreciated in aristocratic circles, it may be mentioned that, in the list of subscribers to the Musical Union, there are two Royal Princes, two foreign Princes and Princesses, five Dukes and Duchesses, three Marquises and Marchionesses, ten Earls and Countesses, nine Viscounts and Viscountesses, one Bishop, ten Barons and Ladies, seven Earls' daughters, twenty Honourables, Colonels, clergymen, painters, poets, men of science, and the Duchess of Gloucester, under the patronage of Prince Albert and the Duchess of Gloucester, took place on Tuesday evening, at the Hanover Rooms, on behalf of Mrs. Sewell and Miss Horn, sisters of the late C. E. Horn, the composer. Selections from his oratorio, "Daniel's Prophecy," and his popular compositions were performed.

The Cecilia Society on Thursday performed Handel's "L'Allegro," conducted by Mr. Walker, Mr. G. Perry organist. Mr. Lucas has announced his annual series of quartet evenings.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.

The opening of the above ancient lyric establishment is announced for the first week in March. The preliminary circular, containing some particulars of the projected campaign of the lessee, is of remarkable interest, and in every way calculated to provoke public curiosity and to interest cultivated amateurs. "The monotony arising from the constant repetition of the same works, and from the absence of new compositions of sufficient pretensions, it is justly stated, 'has been, hitherto, the most constant and insuperable subject of regret.' To meet the demand for novelty and variety, the direction proposes the revival of neglected works by the first masters, and the mounting of entirely new operas by composers of acknowledged fame. The magnitude of the labours to be thus undertaken may be judged by the enumeration of the following lyric productions, to be given in succession during the forthcoming season:—

BEFORE EASTER—"Medea," of Mayer; "La Prigione di Edinburgo," of Ricci. AFTER EASTER—"L'Enfant Prodigue," of Auber; "Il Burgomestre di Saardam," of Lortzing; "La Tempesta," of Halévy; "Le Domino Noir," of Auber; "Ifigenia in Aulide," of Gluck; and, if time should allow, "Il Conte Ori" and "Matilda di Shabran," of Rossini.

Of the above works, the two last-mentioned, by Rossini, and "Medea," will be revivals. The operas by Ricci, Gluck, Lortzing, and Auber will be produced for the first time in Italian in this country, after enjoying great popularity abroad. "L'Enfant Prodigue" is the five-act opera now in preparation at the Grand Opera in Paris, which it is expected, will be produced in April. "La Tempesta," founded on Shakespeare's "Tempest," is Scribe's libretto, and Halévy composes the music expressly for the company of Her Majesty's Theatre.

A very attractive feature in the production of the above works is the promised advent to London of many eminent composers to superintend their productions. Auber, Scribe, Ricci, and Halévy are to come, and perhaps Lortzing. "Medea" will be sustained by Signora Parodi, the pupil of Pasta, who will visit this country on purpose to give Parodi the traditions of that celebrated part, one of the grandest of Pasta's delineations. The "Burgomestre di Saardam" will be mounted for the *rentrée* of the Titan of basses, Lablache, who is also to be the *Caliban* in Halévy's "Tempesta," the gentle *Miranda* being allotted to the accomplished Sontag, who, in addition to last season's characters, *Linda*, *Rosina*, *Desdemona*, *Amina*, and *Susanna*, will likewise appear as *Lucia*, *Norina* ("Don Pasquale"), *Adina* ("Elisir d'Amore"), *Zerlina* in "Don Giovanni," and *Elvira* in "Puritani." Altogether there are some nineteen or twenty operas, one half of which will be novelties and revivals.

As yet the names of Sontag, Parodi, and Lablache only are mentioned, but it is mentioned that arrangements and engagements are still pending of the highest interest. In a future prospectus, the list of the company will be supplied.

BURFORD'S ARCTIC PANORAMA.

The Polar regions, as witnessed by Captain James Clark Ross, during his Expedition in 1848-9, compose a peculiarly interesting panorama, now exhibiting at Burford's, Leicester-square. It is judiciously divided into two parts, and presents the scenery under both its summer and winter aspects. In one-half the circle we may contemplate the awful majesty of the Polar seas at summer midnight; turning from which we find ourselves in the midst of noon, but it is the noon of an Arctic winter in all its sublime severity. The two ships, the *Enterprise* and the *Investigator*, make, of course, the principal object of both pictures. Glaciers and atmospheric phenomena conduce to give effect to the background and local peculiarities. Splendid arches of crimson light, the Aurora Borealis, and the pale moon, shed a wild and weird glory on iceberg and vessel; while on the ice itself the natives, and sailors and officers of the expedition, are amusing themselves with bear-hunting, fox-trapping, and provision-carrying. All this is beautifully rendered. We propose next week to give an Engraving of one of the most striking portions of the picture.

MILBANK PRISON.—The sixth report of the inspectors of Milbank Prison, made in pursuance of the act 6th and 7th Victoria, chap. 26, has been printed. It is stated that many causes have combined to delay the completion of the present report, among which may be numbered the protraction of the financial period embraced by it from twelve to fifteen months, the occurrence within the prison of severe epidemic diseases, which, from their unprecedented severity, had rendered necessary the adoption of measures subversive of the ordinary discipline of the prison, even to the extent of the removal of large numbers of prisoners to another locality, by which changes, and in consequence of the greater amount of duty occasioned by the attendance on the sick, both in London and at Shoreham, the reports of the governor and medical superintendent had been unavoidably delayed. The net earnings of the prisoners for the five quarters ending the 31st of March last amounted to more than £5960, being in excess over those of any previous year. The increase was partly due to the greater number of prisoners in confinement, but much improvement was attributable to the associated method of conducting much of the labour recently introduced. The report, although dated the 25th of December, is only made up to the 1st of April last, on which day there were in the prison 1218 males and 198 females. In the fifteen months 92 male and 4 female prisoners died. The conduct of the prisoners in general is reported to have been very good. Corporal punishment had been resorted to twelve times in the fifteen months: eight of the prisoners were adults, and the others were boys. The net expenses of the establishment in the five quarters were £57,033 11s., after deducting £5961s. 15s. 8d. as net earnings.

CHESS.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

QUIKOTE—The "Staunton Chess-men" can be got in the beautiful material called "Carrara," at Wedgewood's porcelain and china depot, in Bond-street, we believe.

SECRETARY D C C—Apply to the Hon. Secretary of the Brighton Chess Club, Chain-pier, Brighton.

RHO, SIGMA—You have omitted to send the solution.

IGNORAMUS—We do not understand your question. State it more explicitly.

KAPPA, Brompton—As an opportunity is now afforded the amateurs of Brompton for practising Chess, at RAMSAY'S newly-opened Library and News-rooms, we would suggest the propriety of forming a Chess Club there at once. Twenty or thirty members might soon be got together, and these be doubled in the course of next winter. Why does not "Kappa" take the initiative?

BELLARY—It strikes us as very neat indeed for a two-move problem. Has the *Schachzeitung* yet come to hand?

J C W—Ingenious, although neither very original nor very subtle.

B A—1. Has it before been published? 2. The solution of Enigma No. 534 is as follows:—1. B to K 3d; 2. R to K 4th (ch); 3. B to K 3d; and 4. R to K 5th (mate).

JUVENUS—Very promising. In future diagrams use the red ink for the white men.

W P—In the end game No. 432 place the Black Rook on Q 8th, instead of K 8th: the solution is not then difficult. The key-move of Enigma No. 433 is—1. P to K R 8th, becoming a Bishop (check).

B B—We have ourselves some doubt as to the possibility of effecting mate according to the conditions in the position you send for solution.

DIX, Bromsgrove—You can get the "Staunton Chess-men" at Manning's, in Worcester. It is of no use applying to the manufacturers; you should go to the retail dealers.

ARGENT—Rules for Double Chess, or Chess for Four, can be obtained of Leuchars, in Piccadilly.

MAX LANGE, Magdeburg—We shall be glad to receive the little Chess periodical now publishing under the auspices of the Magdeburg Amateurs.

MILTADIES—"Great Match in the United States"—This important encounter was arranged to commence on Monday last; we shall expect, therefore, by the end of the month, to receive some intelligence as to the result of the opening games.

C W R—Your solution of Enigma No. 531, in three moves, is the correct one. The other shall be looked to.

CONSEY, Mice—We are unacquainted with the game.

R B W, Oxford—"No 2" may pass. The first is a failure, altogether.

J C W, T. S. Student—You must take a higher right before you reach our standard.

C E C A S—1. You have forgotten that the Black Bishop may interfere in Problem No. 314. 2. In the solution referred to, the substitution of an "R" for a "K" is all that is required.

3 What game do you allude to?

JACOUTOT, Dieppe—Your solution is correct.

W C, Manchester—It shall have an early place.

D C L—The anniversary banquet of the Liverpool Chess Club took place on Wednesday last.

E B—In the position cited, we hardly think Black could be fairly restricted to 50 moves; but the law on the subject is so vague that we hesitate to decide upon the question.

TREYANUS—The Match by Correspondence between the Chess-Clubs of Reading and Penance, which commenced in October, 1848, has just terminated in favour of the Reading players, who are winners of both the games. We shall probably give them in our next Number.

TELMU, Woolwich—The Cadets would do well to form a Chess-Club, or join the one already established at the Literary Institution, Greenwich.

G M G—The "Sphinx," we have frequently said, can be solved in less than the prescribed number of moves.

QUESTOR, CIVIS, BARNISTER, and Others—Enigma No. 537 can certainly be solved in three moves.

P H—The solution of the very beautiful Enigma No. 518 is—1. B to K 4th (ch); 2. K to B 4th; 3. B to K 5th; 4. K to K 5th; 5. Kt to Q 5th (mate).

SUBSCRIBER—The problems which we give each week, under the head of Chess Enigmas, are not printed on diagrams, simply because we have not room so to display them. As far as merit is concerned, they are quite as much entitled to the distinction as those which have it.

KING DING—The King could not take the Bishop, because to do so he must place himself in check.

CHECK-MATE—The game from that position would probably be drawn.

A LEARNER—Get a set of the "New Chessmen," and play through a series of games by two first-rate players. Depend upon us, you will be astonished in three months at your improvement.

S G, or **J G**—We should prefer giving the odds of the Q's Rook, to giving the Q's Kt and the first two moves.

THE INQUIRER—If White continue to check on the same squares, the game is drawn. See the article on Perpetual Check in the "Chess-Player's Handbook," p. 39.

W G, York—Your last two will be found in the current month's Number of the *Chess-Player's Chronicle*. The one previously sent was published in our paper of Jan. 26, but you omitted to send a solution; and that just received shall have attention.

BRUTUS—1. The game shall be looked through. 2. Of any bookseller.

OXONIENSIS—"The price of Leuchars' beautiful Folding Chess-board is one pound fifteen shillings."

F N, Highgate—If Black, for his first move, play K to Q 4th, how do you proceed?

SOLUTIONS by W. J. B., A. A. M., Deroven, Cannibal, A. B., Charter-house Duo, A. Medical Student, Otho, G. M. G., F. R. B., Boldon, Taurus, Milo, M. P., Rev. V. H., Rev. C. L. M., Rev. S. M. Valley-field, Juvenus, Geco, Cricket, Cecas, Brutus, P. P., S. U., Bellary, ac. correct. Those by Alb., L. S. A., W. H., Carey-street; D. D., Home, Philz, are all wrong.

SOLUTIONS (No. 314) by M. E. R., Mr. Twigg, J. S., Newport; Valley-field, B. A., Juvenus, B. J., Brutus, G. M. G., Cogitans, S. P., W. M., W. S., F. B. D., are correct.

RUDIS—You have forgotten to send solutions. OMICRON is thanked for his polite attention.

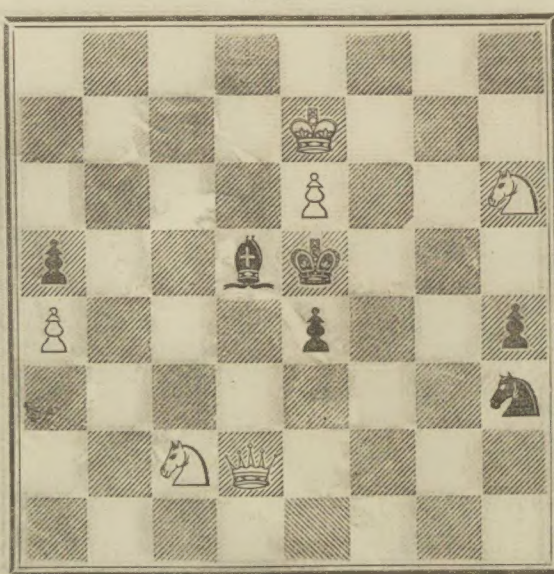
SOLUTION OF PROBLEM NO. 316.

WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1. P to K Kt 4th	P to K R 3d (best)	4. R to Q 5th (double K to his 3d or 5th ch)	
2. Kt to Q 2d (ch)	B takes Kt	5. R to K 5th—Mate.	
3. Q takes K P (ch)	K takes Q		

PROBLEM NO. 317.

This elegant little stratagem is the invention of a young amateur, Mr. H. E. KIDSON, of York.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play, and mate in four moves.

CHESS IN THE METROPOLIS.

Mr. C. F. SMITH gives the odds of the Pawn and two moves to Mr. HUGHES. (Remove Black's K B Pawn from the board.)

WHITE (Mr. H.)	BLACK (Mr. S.)	WHITE (Mr. H.)	BLACK (Mr. S.)
1. P to K 4th	P to K 3d	14. Q to her B 2d	B takes B
2. P to Q 4th	P to Q 4th	15. B takes P (ch)	K to B sq
3. K B to Q 3d	P to K 4th	16. B takes K R P	K Kt to R 3d
4. P takes P	P to K Kt 3d	17. Q R to Q sq	Q to K B 3d
5. K Kt to B 3d	K B takes P	18. Kt takes B	Q takes K
6. Q B to K 3d (a)	P to Q 3d	19. P to Q Kt 5th	Q to K R 5th (d)
7. P to K 5th	Q Kt to B 3d	20. P to K B 4th	K Kt to his 5th
8. Q B to K Kt 5th (b)	Q to her R 4th (ch)	21. P takes P (disch)	K to his 2d
9. Q Kt to B 3d	P to her Kt 3d	22. R to K B 7th (ch)	K takes R
10. Castles	P takes K P	23. Q to K Kt 6th (ch)	K to B sq
11. Q Kt to Q R 4th (c)	Q to her R 4th	24. R to K B sq (ch)	K to his 2d
12. P to Q B 3d	B to K 2d	25. Q to K B 7th (ch)	K to Q sq
13. P to Q Kt 4th	Q to her sq	26. R to Q sq, and wins.	

(a) Castling would have been better play. The move made only loses time.
(b) We should have preferred taking Bishop with Bishop.
(c) This looks more potent than it proves to be.
(d) More brilliant than sound.
(e) White now finishes off the game with a spirit and cleverness which augur well for his future progress in chess warfare.

CHESS ENIGMAS.

No. 541.—By E. H. G.

White: K at his 7th, R at Q 3d, B at K Kt 2d, Kts at K 5th and Q 5th, Ps at K R 4th and K Kt 3d.
Black: K at his 4th, Ps at Q 5th and K Kt 5th.

White to play, and mate in three moves.

No. 542.—LA REGENCE.

White: K at Q R 6th, R at K B 4th, B at K Kt 3d, Kt at Q B 4th.
Black: K at Q Kt sq, Q at K R 2d; Ps at K Kt 4th, K B 2d, and Q R 2d.
White to play, and mate in three moves.

No. 543.—By Mr. EDNEY.

White: K at Q sq, R at K sq, Bs at K Kt 4th and Q B 5th, P at Q B 2d.
Black: K at K Kt 7th; Ps at K Kt 6th, K B 5th, Q 7th, and Q B 6th.
White, playing first, mates in five moves.

EPITOME OF NEWS—FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC.

On Wednesday week, owing to the sudden thaw, a tremendous fall of the cliff occurred between St. Margaret's and Kingsdown, Dover. It is supposed that some thousand tons of chalk have fallen; the road is entirely blocked up, being buried for a considerable distance from twenty to thirty feet, and the chalk extending from the base of the cliff to many feet below high-water mark.

Count Dagenfeld, Vice-Governor of the fortress of Mayence, has just received his nomination to the portfolio of War in Austria, as successor to Field-Marshal Grelay.

The *Berlingische Zeitung* mentions a report of a friendly note from Lord Palmerston to the Danish Government acknowledging the justice of its cause, and proposing a prolongation of the armistice for six months.

At the Hague, the *Staats Courant* publishes a Royal decree, by which the export trade of cattle to Belgium is partially opened.

It appears from the census made on the 19th of November, 1849, that the province of Zealand, in Holland, contains 160,297 inhabitants.

The Indian chiefs arrested and sent to Toronto, on account of their connexion with the disturbances at the mining country on Lake Superior, having been shortly liberated, applied to the Government to defray their expenses back to the Sault Ste. Marie; but this having been refused, a voluntary subscription was sent on foot at Toronto, and they were thus sent to their homes.

The unexpired lease of Monklands, the late residence of the Earl of Elgin, Governor-General of Canada, was disposed of by public auction, on January 15, 1850, and adjudged to Mr. Monk, the proprietor, for £120 per annum. The rent paid by the Government is £450 per annum, consequently Mr. Monk clears £330 per annum during the four years the lease has to run.

A fire took place on the railway near Leighton Buzzard on Wednesday morning week, as the luggage train was approaching Leighton station, one of the trucks, containing meat consigned to Newgate Market having caught fire. The flames were soon extinguished after reaching the station, but not before the greater portion of the meat was roasted.

Lord John Manners has been returned M.P. for Colchester.

A thank-offering of £250 towards the repairs of Redcliff Church, Bristol, was received by the Mayor last week.

Mr. Robert Gardner, who some time since purchased Christ Church, Heathfield, from Mr. Robert Heath, the owner, has presented the living to the Rev. D. Carpenter, of Liverpool. The church will be consecrated, in the course of a very short time, by the Bishop of Manchester.

The restoration of St. Leonard's Church, Wallingford, is nearly finished, and this edifice, which a short time since was a shabby, disgraceful building, is now an ornament to the town. It will be shortly re-opened by its excellent diocesan, the Bishop of Oxford.

Messrs. Elkington and Co. have received the commands of his Royal Highness Prince Albert to manufacture a richly gilt silver table, from a design submitted to his Royal Highness at his request, and of which he was pleased to express his entire approval.

On Saturday, a locomotive on the York, Newcastle, and Berwick Railway exploded and killed the fireman. The engineer and guard were both seriously injured.

The discovery of a new alkali from kelp is attracting great attention in Scotland, as pregnant with great results for the Highlanders and the Islands.

Sixty-six members who voted against the amendment on the Address moved by the Protectionists represent agricultural districts.

The following clergymen have recently received testimonials of esteem and affection:—The Rev. Thomas Clarke Whitehead, from the congregation of Trinity Church, St. Lawrence, Ramsgate, on his leaving that incumbency; the Rev. Hart Ethelston, Perpetual Curate of St. Mark Cheetham Hill, Manchester, a handsome residence, the cost of building which was £1000, from his congregation; the Rev. Thomas Phibbs, late Curate of St. Thomas, Scarborough, Yorkshire, from the sailors, fishermen, and other members of his congregation.

It is contemplated to proceed with the erection of a parsonage for St. Mary's Church, Bilston, as soon as funds can be raised for the purchase of a site. The Ecclesiastical Commissioners have given £1000 towards the erection of the house.

At a meeting of the paper manufacturers of Dublin last week, held for the purpose of considering the Excise duties upon that article of production, a petition to Parliament was agreed upon, praying to be relieved from the injurious operation of those duties.

At a meeting of the Royal Agricultural Improvement Society, it was decided that the secretary should proceed to England and personally solicit those noblemen and others of the landed interests in that country, residing in England, for pecuniary assistance towards forwarding the objects of the society.

By accounts from the west of Ireland, especially the barony of Tyrerawly, it appears that illicit distillation is at present carried on there to a great extent, notwithstanding the activity of the revenue police.

Sir F. Baring, the first Lord of the Admiralty, has consented to pre- side at the anniversary festival of the Royal Naval School, on the 4th of May.

It is rumoured that her late Majesty the Queen Dowager has bequeathed the sum of £10,000 to Major-General Lord Frederick Fitzclarence, G.C.H., commanding the south-west district.

Lord Shaftesbury has not yet resigned his office of Chairman of Committees of the House of Lords, to which an excellent salary and considerable patronage are attached. His Lordship, however, has desired to be relieved from the duties of Deputy Speaker of the Lords, to which he had been appointed in conjunction with Lord Denman. A warrant under the sign manual has accordingly been issued, appointing Lord Denman and Lord Campbell to pre- side in the House of Lords, as Deputy Speaker, in the absence of the Lord Chancellor.

The report on interments will be presented in a few days by the General Board of Health; and the Bill for the Prevention of Intramural Interments, prepared by them, will immediately follow.

The speech delivered by Lord John Russell on Friday week, on colonial affairs, is immediately to be printed in the form of a pamphlet, and issued at a low price for general circulation.

The subscription for the support of the Rev. Mr. Whiston in the struggle in which he is engaged on behalf of cathedral schools against the appropriation of the funds by deans and chapters, is progressing. It already amounts to upwards of £500.

It may not be generally known, that by the Income-tax Act, 5 & 6 Vict., every parish or township is liable to make good any loss occasioned to the revenue by the default or failure of the collector to pay over the monies he has received. An instance of this kind just occurred at Maryport, in Yorkshire, where a supplementary assessment has been made, levied, and collected upon the inhabitants, in consequence of the collector having misappropriated some of the monies received by him.

The occupiers of the rooms in the inner quadrangle of Jesus College, Oxford, were awake during the storm on Wednesday morning by the fall of a large chimney stack, which descended in a mass on the sitting-room of the Rev. C. W. Heaton, one of the Fellows, who was asleep in an adjoining bed-room, and fortunately escaped unhurt. In Corpus-Gardens two of the trees were blown down, and a portion of a wall in Magdalen College; and several of the fine old trees in Christchurch-walk were denuded of their upper branches.

At the annual meeting of the proprietors of the York Union Bank- ing Company, last week, the directors reported that the business and the profits of the past year had been such as to prove the unabated confidence of the public in the bank. A dividend of 8 per cent. on the shares (£15) was declared, and the outgoing directors were re-elected.

The *Wiener Zeitung* publishes a report from the Austrian minister of Finance, which states that the amount of the new loan of 90 millions at 4½ per cent. already subscribed is about 40 millions.

The sub-committee of the commissioners of Devonport, appointed to examine the bills of the medical gentlemen for professional assistance rendered during the cholera, have reported, after having reduced the several bills to the greatest possible extent, the total amount is still more than £937. The entire cost of the cholera in the town will be more than £2000.

The Berlin official *Gazette* announces, that, in order to put a stop to the smuggling of coffee into the Rhenish provinces from Holland, the most rigorous measures of surveillance are to be established.

The Bavarian army is to be increased by a new levy of 18,000 men.

The vessel *Shah Jehan*, which has arrived in the West India Docks from Canton, has brought upwards of 14,000 packages of tea, being one of the largest individual importations of this important article of merchandise which has ever taken place.

At the annual meeting of the Carlisle and Cumberland Bank, held last week at Carlisle, it appeared from the report that the profits for the year 1849 had amounted to £6802, or upwards of 13 per cent. on the capital. A dividend of 8½ per cent. was declared—amount, £4414; the sum of £1570 was added to the reserved surplus fund, and the balance carried to the contingent fund. The reserved surplus fund, now amounts to £19,620, and the contingent fund to £510.

The town council of Preston has voted £8000 for the erection in that borough of public baths and washhouses. They are to contain 100 baths and 100 washing apartments, and are to be after the plan of the model establishment in Goulston-square, Whitechapel.

The *Giornale di Roma*, of the 30th ult., publishes a notification from the Minister of Finance, regulating the cultivation of tobacco in the Papal States. Around Rome a surface of 230 rubbia, about 80 acres, sufficient for the cultivation of 7,500,000 plants, is to be devoted to this purpose.

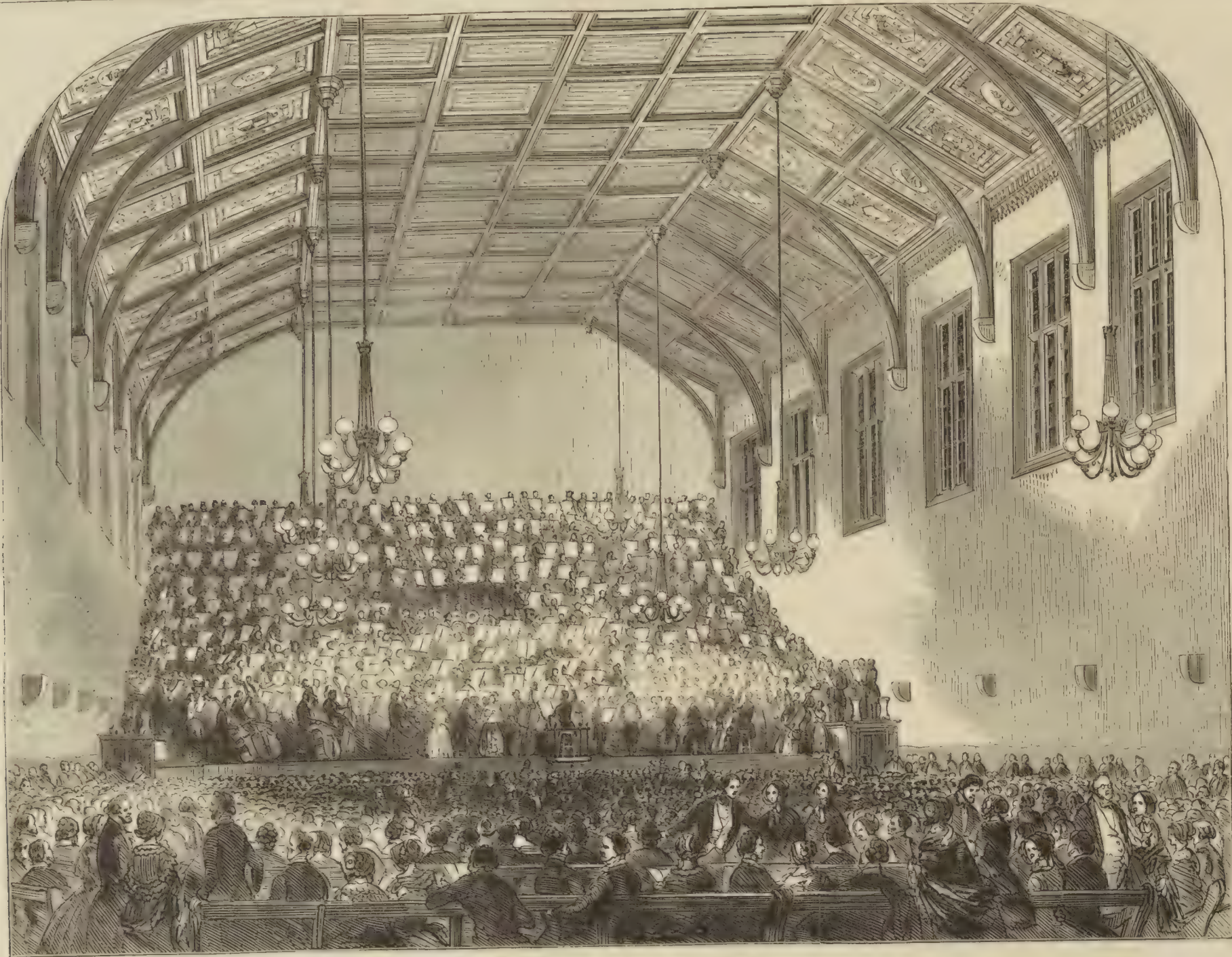
Official notice is given this week to the officers and company of her Majesty's sloop *Bittern*, Thomas Hope, Esq., Commander, who were actually on board at the capture of the *Josefina*, on the 14th May, 1848, that a distribution of the slave bo- nities, received for the said vessel, will be made, on Tuesday, the 26th instant, at No. 14, Great George-street, Westminster, where the unclaimed shares will be re-called for three months.

By a notification of the Roman Government Commission, dated the 1st inst., the importation of corn, cattle, oil, soap, and a few other articles duty free, at Ancona and Civita Vecchia, is abolished.

The Tuscan Government has doubled the duties on corn and merchan- dise introduced into the free port of Leghorn. It has also increased the price of salt, and imposed a tax on mortgages.

THE MARKETS.

the process for the preservation of timber.



OPENING OF ST. MARTIN'S HALL, LONG-ACRE.

SCENE FROM THE NEW PLAY OF "FIESCO," AT DRURY-LANE THEATRE.

an offering to our readers an Engraving of the last scene of "Fiesco," painted by Mr. Brunning, and representing the Galley in the Harbour and Port of Genoa,

at night, in endeavouring to gain which the hero of the drama is assassinated by the Republican *Verrina*, we may be excused for re-directing attention to Mr. Vandenhoff's fine impersonation of the character. It stood out in relief from the beginning of the play. In the scene in which he declares the attempted outrage upon his daughter, the ancient Roman reappeared in the actor, and Vir-

gilius himself never looked nobler. Mr. Vandenhoff's attitudes and declamation were alike grand and impressive. In a subsequent scene, excited by a picture of Caesar's death, *Verrina* would stab the canvas, but is restrained by his companion. Nothing can be finer than Mr. Vandenhoff's passion in this situation; which he completely realises. Nor is he wanting to the last scene of all. Both he and *Fiesco* are lone men—this has lost his daughter, that his wife, in the political conflict. They have been friends; may yet be, so that *Fiesco* be true to Genoa and liberty. *Verrina* prostrates himself at the feet and clasps the knees of *Fiesco*, in vain. Then it is that *Verrina* takes the apostate at sudden advantage, and immolates him to the greatness and divinity of an idea. We know no man on the stage who could reach the dignity of an action like this with the facility and power displayed by Mr. Vandenhoff. For such parts he is equally gifted both by nature and education. At the present time he is our only classical actor.

OPENING OF ST. MARTIN'S HALL.

The opening of the great hall took place on Monday night: it is, however, not yet its intended length—fifty feet more are to be added, when the leases of some houses fall in at the west side; galleries are also to be added, and the decorators as yet have done little or nothing. There is, consequently, a naked aspect at present, which is little tempting to induce us to dwell on its architectural pretensions. There is no organ, and we do not think the disposition of the orchestra judicious; the *façade* is much too elevated for a good distribution of sound. The Hall is well lighted with elegant chandeliers, and there was animation in the general appearance when completely filled with amateurs; and the orchestra presented its band of some seventy players and nearly 500 singers, the latter principally selected from Mr. Hullah's upper singing schools. His presence in the conductor's seat was the signal for a general burst of applause. By his perseverance he has gained great estimation, whatever may be the opinions as to the merits of his system of tuition. The programme opened with Mendelssohn's cantata, "Praise Jehovah," the Latin version of which, "Lauda Sion," was performed at the Liverpool Philharmonic Festival. The solo were sung by Miss Birch, M^{rs}. Noble, and Messrs. Benson and Whitworth. After which Miss Dolby sang "Mea tormenta," from Haase's oratorio "Magdalena," which was followed by Dr. Crotch's motet, "Methinks I hear the full celestial choir," by Mr. W. H. Segun and chorus; and Handel's air, "The smiling dawn," from "Jephtha," sung by Miss Rantforth. The first part then terminated with Mr. Henry Leslie's festival anthem, "Let God arise," the words selected from the 68th Psalm. It was praiseworthy to inaugurate the Hall with the performance of a work by a native composer. Mr. H. Leslie has already distinguished himself by some chamber compositions. His present essay is one of no ordinary magnitude, and it presents his talents as a cultivated musician in the most favourable light. It is evident that he has studied zealously the Handelian and Mendelssohnian schools: the opening chorus in A is conceived in the forms of Handel; the beautiful tenor solo, "Thou, O God!" sung by Mr. Benson, with the violoncello obligato, evinces the Mendelssohnian tendency; the soprano air in E, "But let the righteous," sung by Miss Stewart, is more strongly marked with the composer's individu-



SCENE FROM THE PLAY OF "FIESCO," AT DRURY-LANE THEATRE.



THEATRICAL PERFORMANCES AT WINDSOR CASTLE.—THE "GREEN-ROOM."—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)

ality. The instrumentation in a charming duo for tenor and soprano, "Give thanks unto the Lord," must be cited. The final chorus, "Sing unto God," is full of power, and the fugue is masterly. It was, however, impossible to come to any definite conclusion as to the details of Mr. Leslie's composition, so many points being ruined from inaccurate and indifferent execution. It is to be regretted that his Anthem had not been produced by the Sacred Harmonic Society, by which

THE FEAR OF THE WORLD; OR, LIVING FOR APPEARANCES.

BY THE BROTHERS MAYHEW.

Authors of "The Greatest Plague of Life," &c.

CHAPTER XII.

THEMISTOCLES LODGE was an old house modernised. It was not a very spacious building; but it was large enough for the late Knight and his accomplished daughter. The two pillars of the gate, which led by a carriage sweep to the front entrance, were each surmounted with a huge lion rampant; and the trees, which half hid the house from the intrusive gaze of the passers by, were carved in various grotesque shapes, and looked, for all the world, like so many chessmen carved by the hand of Nature—if indeed any one with a less vivid imagination than that of the late owner could believe that Nature would delight in such whimsicalities. Over the door the family coat-of-arms was stuccoed and painted in glaring blue, red, and yellow. Within the house all was tinsel and glitter; there was not a room which did not make the eyes ache with the daubs of red and yellow and gold that besmeared the furniture on all sides: wealth, not taste, it was very evident, reigned over the household. In the drawing-room you were struck, not with the grandeur of the apartment, but with the heterogeneous mass of riches heaped up within that narrow space.

In an upper front room there was a handsome coffin, surmounted with a magnificent stand of feathers, that seemed—so oppressive was their blackness when compared with the other articles in the room—to fill the apartment; and beneath those feathers reposed the corpse of Sir Giles Nicholls, knight, and late county magistrate. Thank heaven! he was about to be given to the worms respectably, and with all the pomp befitting his high station. In the bed-room farthest off from that in which the remains of her father lay (for she was too frightened to sleep in the room next to that in which his still ashes were packed for burial), Miss Janet was busily employed trying on her garb of woe, and taking

particular pains to see that it exactly fitted her. When Mr. Nicholls arrived at the paternal residence, he really felt impressed with the solemnity of the scene; and he thought, as he looked upon his father's coffin, that there lay the remains of one who had, with but the most meagre return of thanks on his part, been the source of all his enjoyments hitherto. On the morning of the funeral the friends of the late Sir Giles assembled in the drawing-room; the undertakers busied themselves putting crape round each visitor's hat, and placing a huge pair of black gloves across the crown; the cake and wine were handed round by the head official, who begged of everybody, in turn, to take a glass, for it would give them nerve to go through the trying scene that awaited them; and at length a man thrust his head in at the door, and in a gruff whisper, said, "Are you ready, sir?" Mr. Nicholls replied that he was perfectly prepared, and in a few minutes the heavy tramp of men through the hall reminded the guests that the late owner was passing his threshold for the last time. It would be useless to detail to the fashionable reader the number of feathers and staff-bearers who marshalled the remains of Sir Giles to the churchyard. Everybody knows what a respectable funeral is, and that of Sir Giles Nicholls certainly was very respectable.

The will was in the hands of Mr. Dewpurt, attorney, of Newcastle. On the Monday after the solemn ceremony, this gentleman waited upon Mr. and Miss Nicholls, and read them the last will and testament of their departed parent. Miss Janet vowed, at first, that she was not sufficiently herself to go through such a trial of her nerves; but, being encouraged a little by her brother, she was induced to accompany him into the breakfast-parlour, where the attorney was seated.

"Come, my dear Janet," said Mr. Nicholls, soothingly; "you will live with me, you know. It's merely a matter of form, since my father had no relation in the world except myself—come." And the brother and sister entered the breakfast-parlour, and seated themselves opposite Mr. Dewpurt and his clerk.

"I am afraid, Mr. Nicholls," began Mr. Dewpurt, "that you will be surprised at the disclosure which this parchment will make to you."

"Proceed sir, proceed," Mr. Nicholls replied, with a careless, con-



BUST OF MR. HULLAH.

justice would have been done to its undeniable beauties. The second part was appropriated to secular music, comprising gleanings from Mozart's "Idomeneo;" the two grand scenes from Weber's "Der Freyschütz" and "Oberon" for tenor and soprano, sung by Mr. Sims Reeves and Miss Lucombe—the latter admirably executed her air; Beethoven's Sonata in C minor, exquisitely played by Ernst and Sterndale Bennett; Purcell's air, "I attempt from love's sickness to fly," in which Mr. Lockey was deservedly encored; Spohr's trio, "Night's lingering shades," sung by Misses Lucombe, Rainforth, and Dolby, &c.; terminating with the National Anthem.

The Bust of Mr. Hullah, engraved above, has just been completed by Mr. Bacon, the sculptor.



"A prison of shame—perhaps a penal settlement—stared him in the face."

temptuous tone, "the nerves of gentlemen are at their own discretion." Without further preface, Mr. Dewport proceeded, without attending either to punctuation or intonation, to disclose to Mr. Nicholls the appalling fact that Sir Giles had willed to Janet a sufficient sum to purchase for her an annuity of £150; after the payment of which and the settlement of the deceased's debts, the residue was to go to Wellesley Nicholls!

"Now, sir," said the lawyer, turning carelessly to Mr. Nicholls, "after the purchasing of the annuity for Miss Nicholls, and the discharge of the debts of the lamented deceased, you must be aware that there will not be a patch or stick remaining. Your father stated, in justification of his will, that he had allowed you £500 a year for the last eleven years; that he had given you a profession; and that he did not despair of your talents."

"I must leave for town to-night. You will arrange matters, I suppose, sir," replied Mr. Nicholls, haughtily, his lip quivering with rage.

"Leave all to me, sir; I will see to everything: good morning. Come, Jeremiah!" Mr. Dewport having bowed with infinite politeness to Miss Nicholls, departed, followed by his lean clerk.

"I am a beggar, Janet," said Mr. Nicholls, trembling from head to foot: "worse than a beggar!"

"You have your profession, Wellesley," returned Miss Nicholls, quite calmly.

"Not worth a sixpence!"

"You see I can't help you. I shall be barely able to furnish myself with necessaries out of such a pittance."

The brother and sister were fashionable people, felt a proper regard for one another, and parted very decorously—the sister having sighed "What a pity!" when she heard that her brother was a ruined spendthrift.

Mr. Nicholls returned home, thinking by the way of the bill drawn on Reuben Marsh, and turning over in his mind the safest way to escape from the fangs of his formidable body of creditors. There would be no more quarterly remittances, for the old goose who dropped a golden egg four times a year for him was dead.

When he was once safely ensconced in his house, he ordered it to be kept in a state of siege. Scouts were kept on the look-out from the back and front windows, and all provisions were taken in over the area railings.

"It's like Gibraltar," said a seedy man to another, outside; "I've been watching like a hawk for the last twenty days, and I'm hanged if a blue-bottle could have got in while I've been on guard. Nicholls has never been seen; but his wife is as vigilant as a cat. What irritates me over and above all is that varmint of a tiger, who keeps a putting his fingers to his nose over the kitchen blinds every time I take a look down. Ecod, if I once comes within reach of that tight suit of his! He looks like a ripe gooseberry in it: prick him, and it's my belief he'd shrivel up like a bust India-rubber ball. Day and night I'm to watch now; they must give in some time or another." And with these sagacious reflections the seedy individual ran his eyes from the garret to the kitchen windows, with the pride of one who anticipates a victory at hand.

The state of the property of the late Sir Giles Nicholls had been published in the papers; and, as a matter of course, had driven the creditors of Mr. Nicholls about his ears like a swarm of wasps. For twenty long days the family had supported the siege with tolerable cheerfulness. Mrs. Nicholls, who always carried her aquamarines about with her, and declared she would part with them only with her life, had done her utmost to console the dejected Wellesley; but he refused to be comforted, and never stirred from the back room. As day after day passed on, he became more and more gloomy, till at length, on the twentieth day (on the morrow the forgery on Reuben Marsh would be presented), he called his wife to him, locked the room door, and told her that he had a terrible disclosure to make to her; that, come what might, he had done all in the enthusiasm of his love for her; that a prison of shame—perhaps a penal settlement—stared him in the face; in short, that he had forged the acceptance of her brother Reuben Marsh to pay for those accursed diamonds! To faint, to weep, to blame, to forgive, and then to plan his deliverance, these were the stages through which Mrs. Wellesley Nicholls rapidly passed—pride first swelling at her heart—then love for him with whom she had struggled conquering her fear of the world. On the morrow morning she determined to go by the earliest conveyance to Farnham.

On the day following this disclosure farmer Marsh was up and at work before six o'clock in the morning. His firm hand guided the plough through the earth to produce his wealth. Perspiration stood on his brow as he toiled on hour after hour, and calculated the gains of his honest labour. About half-past nine o'clock Molly came running into the field with a paper in her hand, which, she said, a gentleman had just left for him, with a message, that he hoped, for the sake of Mr. Marsh, it would not be dishonoured. Reuben took the paper, stopped his horses, and as he stood in the furrow which he had just made, read the notice to the effect that a bill of his acceptance for one hundred and fifty-eight pounds, drawn by Mr. Wellesley Nicholls, was due that day before four o'clock, at Mr. Green's, solicitor, Farnham! The blood mounted to Reuben's face, as he read on; he guessed the truth at once.

"Dang the rascal!" he exclaimed at last, in a frenzy of passion. "Thee be too hard—a bit too hard, Muster Nicholls. Molly, I lent my sister's husband a hundred pounds wi' a willing heart: I would ha'e lent him more, only I knew he was running a full gallop to ruin. These know'st I told him so. Well, now look-ee here, he's been and forged my name, and I must pay one hundred and sixty pounds to-day, or let him be transported! He be a rogue, Molly—a rogue!"

"That he be," replied Molly, her head shaking with indignation; "and will-ee spend our hard earnings on the like rogue?"

Without answering her, Reuben, with his eyes fixed on the letter, continued, "It be enough to kill a man, that it be. I ha'e worked hard for the money; I ha'e paid father's owings like an honest man, without receiving e'er a farthing from them. I ha'e lent un an hundred pounds; and now—and the farmer drew in his breath, and frowned till his face grew purple. Suddenly slapping his thigh, he muttered from between his teeth, "I'll see lawyer Green, and read Muster Wellesley Nicholls such a lesson like, that he'll not forget to his dying day. Shouting to one of the boys "to run saddle the black horse," the farmer hurried off, in spite of Molly's entreaties to remember that "the rogue were his own sister's husband."

Reuben had not been long absent when a crazy cab drove up to the farm yard gate, and a lady, elegantly dressed, alighted, paid the fare, and walked into the farm-house. About two hours then elapsed before Reuben again appeared in sight, coming along the road at a slow steady trot. The lady was at the door to meet him.

"Well, Sally, gal!" said Reuben, shaking his sister's hand, and looking in her face with a cold searching glance, "this be a sad business."

"Oh! my poor, poor Wellesley!" said Mrs. Nicholls beseechingly.

"I ha'e just been telling Sally," said Molly, advancing with a potato which she was scraping in one hand, "that there be no excuse for Muster Nicholls, and that thee'll expose him before his fine friends."

"Ah, that I will, and may be in a way he won't like!" replied Reuben Marsh, warming again to a passion, and wiping his broad face with an acre of blue handkerchief. "I tell thee, Sally—and dang it I'm a man of my word—I'll to town to-night and expose Muster Nicholls; it'll be a lesson. Dang it—a hundred and fifty-eight pounds! I been't a coiner!"

"In mercy, Reuben; on my knees I beg forgiveness—it is all, all my fault," cried Mrs. Wellesley Nicholls, falling on her knees on the sandy floor, and clasping the muddy gaiters of her "vulgar" relation. But she pleaded in vain, Reuben was resolute.

(To be concluded next week.)

THE ADVERTISEMENT DUTY.—Among the Parliamentary papers issued during the last session, was one showing the number of advertisements on which duty was paid in each year, from 1833 to the end of 1840. This is the last return, and the information contained is of some value. In England the number of advertisements in 1826 was 775,356, and the duty (3s. 6d. each) was £135,687 6s.; in 1827, the number was 765,593, and the duty £133,978 15s. 6d.; in 1828, the number was 779,250, and the duty £136,368 15s.; in 1829, the number was 777,445, and the duty £136,052 17s. 6d.; in 1830, the number was 788,091, and the duty £137,915 18s. 6d.; in 1831, the number was 787,649, and the duty £137,838 11s. 6d.; in 1832, the number was 783,557, and the duty £137,122 9s. 6d. The duty was reduced to 1s. 6d., from the 5th of July, 1833. In 1834, the number was 977,441, and the duty £273,308 1s. 6d.; in 1835, the number was 1,038,041, and the duty £277,853 1s. 6d.; in 1836, the number was 1,173,136, and the duty £287,985 4s.; in 1837, the number was 1,206,680, and the duty £290,501; in 1838, the number was 1,315,581, and the duty £298,668 11s. 6d.; and in 1839, the number was 1,351,421, and the duty £301,356 11s. 6d.; and in 1840, the number was 1,425,387, and the duty £306,904 0s. 6d.

THEATRICAL PERFORMANCES, WINDSOR CASTLE.

As in our last Number we illustrated the theatre, so this week we give a representation of the actors in their "Green-room;" the State Ante-room being the apartment so destined for the occasion.

The apartment is somewhat singular in form, as at either end is a deep alcove, if it may be so termed, or recess, wherein are doors leading to various rooms. These recesses are lighted in the daytime by skylights of ground glass; but the larger portion of the room has only a half light, as all the illumination it receives is borrowed from the Grand Staircase, on to which look a lofty door and two windows, all of them having very plain tracery. This apartment forms one of the series usually shown to strangers, and is noticeable as showing the style in which many of the old state rooms had their ceilings decorated. The subject of this pictorial ceiling is the Banquet of the Gods; and at the sides of the ceiling, groups of fish, fowl, game, &c. are painted; whilst at the corners, groups of figures and boys are represented. This painted work is a fine specimen of the abilities of Verrio, whose gods and goddesses "sprawl" over the ceilings of so many of the mansions erected in the reign of our second Charles and William III. The carved festoons of flowers and game which are above the fire-place, over some looking-glasses, and the recessed doors at each end of the room, are exquisitely beautiful; as, indeed, it would be strange were they otherwise, seeing they are the handiwork of Grinling Gibbons. Some nice tapestry of rich and piquant design, having mythological subjects, fills the walls on either side of the fireplace and the walls of the alcoves before mentioned. In a recess over the chimney-piece, which, by the way, is of white marble, and neat in design, is a portrait of George II., painted on glass, and copied from a picture by Sir Joshua Reynolds; the fruit and flowers, by Grinling Gibbons, serving as a frame.

In this palatial "green-room" refreshments were served during the evening to the *corps dramatique*. The arrangements for the dressing-rooms were admirably studied; the Queen's Closet, King's Closet, and King's Council-room being devoted to the principal actors, and the Queen's drawing-room, or Zuccarelli-room; and the Vandeyck-room, to the other parties engaged in the plays. To form the number of dressing-rooms requisite for the chief actors, partitions were arranged in two of the rooms, so as to divide them into small separate apartments; and each apartment being provided with toilet requirements, made a series of appropriate and convenient dressing-rooms, communicating immediately with the "green room" in one direction, and the stage in another.

In our Engraving we have represented the actors dressed for "Charles the XII.," and others who, engaged in the first piece, have doffed their costumes for their usual dresses. "Charles the XII.," was preceded by "King René's Daughter," translated by the Hon. Edmund Phipps, from the German version of the Danish poem of Henric Herz.

Shortly before eight o'clock, her Majesty the Queen and his Royal Highness Prince Albert, with the Prince of Wales, Prince Alfred, the Princess Royal, and the Princess Alice, entered the theatre, accompanied by her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent, his Serene Highness Prince Edward of Saxe-Weimar, M. and Madame Van de Weyer, the Marquis of Lansdowne, the Marquis and Marchioness of Westminster, Lady Octavia Grosvenor, the Earl of Grosvenor, the Earl of Aberdeen, Viscount and Viscountess Mahon, Lord and Lady Ashley, and other visitors; and attended by the Countess of Desart, Lady in Waiting; the Marquis of Ormond, Lord in Waiting, and the other ladies and gentlemen of the Court in waiting.

Her Majesty and the Prince and the illustrious party having taken their seats, her Majesty's private band, which was stationed in an ante-room, played the overture to "Henri Quatre" (Martial), and the performance then commenced.

A select party had been honoured with invitations to the Castle to witness the dramatic representation, consisting of his Serene Highness Prince Edward of Saxe-Weimar, the Countess Dowager of Sefton, and two Ladies Molyneux, the Dowager Lady and the Hon. Miss Lytleton and Miss Pole Carew, the Hon. and Rev. Henry and Lady Anna Maria Cust and two Misses Cust, Mrs. Peregrine Cust, Lieutenant-Colonel Hon. C. B. and Mrs. Phipps and Miss Bathurst, Colonel Hon. Chas. and Mrs. Grey, Lieutenant-Colonel F. H. and Lady Emily Seymour, Hon. and Rev. Gerald Wlesley, Hon. Edmund Phipps, Sir George and Lady Couper, Miss and Mr. Couper, Hon. Henry and Mrs. Ashley, Admiral and Mrs. Sykes, Major-General and the Hon. Mrs. Scott, Colonel and Mrs. Challoner, Captain and the Hon. Mrs. Tottenham, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Seymour, Mr. and Mrs. Crutchley, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Wells and Miss Lethbridge, Mr. Birch, Mr. Glover, the Commanding Officer of the 1st Life Guards (Colonel Hall), one officer of the 1st Life Guards (Captain Farrer), the Commanding Officer of the Grenadier Guards (Colonel Thornton), one officer of the Grenadier Guards (Lieutenant-Colonel Wm. Thornton).

The Queen's private band played between the acts.

The following was the programme of the performance:—

ROYAL ENTERTAINMENT.

(By Command.)

ON FRIDAY, FEB. 8.

A dramatic sketch, translated from the German version of the Danish poem of Henric Herz, by the Hon Edmund Phipps, abridged and adapted for stage representation, entitled

KING RENÉ'S DAUGHTER.

King René (Count of Provence)	Mr. James Wallack.
Count Tristan, of Vandemont	Mr. Charles Kean
Sir Geoffrey of Orange (friend of Count Tristan)	Mr. Webster.
Sic Almeric	Mr. Boyce.
Ebn Jahia (a Moorish physician)	Mr. Howe.
Bertrand	Mr. Caulfield.
Iolanthe (the blind daughter of King René) ..	Mrs. Charles Kean.
Martha (wife to Bertrand)	Mrs. F. Saville.

After which was performed an historical drama, in two acts, by Mr. J. R. Planché, called

CHARLES XII.

Charles XII. (King of Sweden)	Mr. Webster.
General Duckert (Governor of Stralsund) ..	Mr. Charles Kean.
Colonel Reichel	Mr. Boyce.
Gustavus de Mervelt	Mr. Leigh Murray.
Major Vanberg (under the name of Firmann)	Mr. Cooper.
Adam Brock (a farmer in the island of Rugen)	Mr. James Wallack.
Triptolemus Muddlewark (Burgomaster of Circow)	Mr. Harley.
First Officer	Mr. Caulfield.
Second Officer	Mr. Coe.
Sentinel	Mr. A. Brindal.
Clerk to Muddlewark	Mr. Clark.
Ulrica (daughter of Vanberg)	Miss Jane Mordaunt.
Eudiga (daughter of Adam Brock)	Miss Kathleen Fitzwilliam.
Director	Mr. Charles Kean.
Assistant Director	Mr. George Ellis.
Stage Manager	Mr. Frederick Webster.
The theatre arranged and the scenery painted by	Mr. Thomas Grieve.

THE THEATRES.

ST. JAMES'S.

Adolphe Adam's three-act comic opera, "Le Roi d'Yvetot," the words by MM. Leuven and Brunswick, was represented for the first time in this country last Monday. This work was produced in Paris, at the Théâtre Royal de l'Opéra Comique, in October, 1842. It met with considerable success: founded on Béranger's popular political *chanson*, the sly hits at Royalty, affairs of state, and the civil list, amused the Parisians, so ready to turn into ridicule matters connected with Government, whether Royalist or Republican. Chollet's admirable acting of *Josselyn*, supported by the naïve and comic powers of Mlle. Darcier, as *Jeanneton*, and the gay and catching music of Adam, sufficiently account for the popularity of "Le Roi d'Yvetot." Chollet being included in the cast here would alone justify its performance. The versatility of his powers is quite surprising. Who would recognise in *Josselyn* the corsair *Zampa*, the gallant *Le Joyeux*, or the fanatic *Chapel Master*—the characters he has already sustained at St. James's this season? It is in this facility of changing individuality, and of identifying themselves with every new part, that the *artistes* of the French school so surpass our native performers. The story of "Le Roi d'Yvetot" is that of an easy-minded shopkeeper of Ronen, who, in his retirement at Yvetot, is called upon to assume the burden of Royalty, according to the custom of that place—each Monarch having the right to name his successor. *Josselyn* cares not for the honour; but his servant, *Jeanneton*, a *Roxolane*, finds the will of the King (who dies in the Holy Wars), and has her master proclaimed, to his no small amazement, on awakening from a debauch of cider—the common drink of Normandy, as in Herefordshire or Devonshire. *Josselyn* is resolved to have "la paix à tout prix"—the irony, of course, is intended for Louis Philippe—but war is declared against him by a Knight-Commander of Malta, because *Josselyn* proposes to unite *Marguerite*, his daughter, to *Adalbert*, whom the Commander wishes to see enrolled amongst the monkish warriors, and consequently doomed to celibacy. *Josselyn*, however, proves to the Commander that *Marguerite* is his own daughter; and for fear of the exposure that he had broken his vows, he makes peace, and *Adalbert* and *Marguerite* are united. The Royalist caricatures and political allusions constitute the fun of the drama, and the skill of the composer in adapting music to the words has been exhibited in a remarkable degree; it is full of vivacity and facile melodious phrases. Adam is a learned musician and organist, who can throw off a fugue as readily as he can compose comic strains; but he has devoted himself chiefly to the *opera buffa*, in which he has made many hits, as in the "Proscrit," "Le Postillon de Longjumeau," "Le Brasseur de Preston," and "Le Châlet." His ball music in "Giselle," and in "Le Diable à Quatre" is well known and it may be recollected that he composed for Covent Garden Theatre in 1832, for his brother-in-law, M. Laporte, the music of "His First Campaign."

There was no performance on Ash Wednesday, but on Thursday a morning performance of Auber's popular "Domino Noir" took place, preceded by Challe's *buffa* scene, and the duo with Mlle. Guichard from Paer's "Maitre de Chapelle."

SADLER'S WELLS.

A romantic play, by Mr. George Bennett, the actor, was produced on Monday,

entitled "Retribution." It affords us much pleasure in being able to add, that it is decidedly a good play. It may be objected, that it is a melodrama—but then it is a drama; the situations are embellished with much poetic dialogue; and the poetry, though conventional, is neither weak nor maudlin. It is, throughout, healthy and sound, and, in some passages, possesses beauty as well as strength.

The characters in the play are well suited to the company. There is Mr. Bennett himself well fitted with a certain hypocritical villainous *Sir Baldwin Brarley*, who, years ago, has tempted his friend *Ralph de Lacy* to kill his wife, from jealousy, and compelled him to abandon his infant son, from the necessity of flight. Then there is the fugitive himself, who reappears as a mock desperado, one *Blackbourn*, which Mr. Phelps is enabled to make entirely his own—such is the mingled ruggedness and pathos of the character. Of the latter, *Sir Baldwin* is throughout the dupe. To him he entrusts the assassination of *De Lacy*, who has returned as an adherent of the Cavalier party, and whom *Blackbourn* pretends to have slain on the field of battle. Him, too, he sets at liberty, when safely imprisoned, on promise of restoring some papers which implicated himself of treason. Next we have a certain orphan, one *Phillip*, a foundling at the gate of *Sir Robert Raby* (Mr. Younge), who, as the lover of *Sir Robert's* daughter, *Alice* (Miss Glyn), found an efficient representative in Mr. Marston. *Sir Baldwin* has also a son, a sickly youth, one *Edwin* (Mr. Dickinson), who loves *Alice*, who, also, as a brother, loves him, but no further—*Phillip* is her heart's elected lord. *Sir Baldwin*, irate at this preference, would lead *Alice* to believe that the foundling was the illegitimate offspring of his protector. At this idea the soul of *Alice* is agitated to its depths. She questions her father upon the point, and then her lover. This gives occasion to some of the great acting on the part of Miss Glyn. Fortunately, *Phillip* had just before had an interview with *Blackbourn*, and knows himself to be *De Lacy's* son. The scene between Mr. Phelps and Mr. Marston, in which the latter is recognised by his father, is grandly conceived, and acted with remarkable energy by Mr. Phelps, who was deservedly called before the curtain by the audience at the end of the third act. Up to the close of the fourth, *Sir Baldwin*, however, has the advantage of all parties. The chances of war have made *Raby*, his daughter and her lover, his prisoners; and, according to the sentence of a court-martial, he may doom them to the block. There stands the headsman outside the chapel, unless *Raby* consents that *Alice* forthwith wed *Edwin*. But *Edwin* is dying—retires with *Alice* to have speech apart, and dies. *Sir Baldwin* will have vengeance; but *Blackbourn* enters, followed by the King's troops, reveals his name and character, and arrests *Sir Baldwin* for treason. All this was admirably mounted and acted.

"Charles XII.," having been performed at Windsor Castle, has found its way to more than one metropolitan stage. At the HAYMARKET and the LYCEUM it has been already revived; and it is also advertised for DEBURY-LANE. At the last-named theatre, moreover, the tragedy of "Julius Cæsar" was performed on Thursday:—*Brutus*, by Mr. Vandenhoff; *Cassius*, by Mr. Cathcart; and *Mark Antony*, by Mr. Anderson.

At the STRAND the comedy of the "Clandestine Marriage" was acted; and on the same evening Mr. Brooke acted *Shylock* at the OLYMPIC.

At the MAYFLOR, the Adelphi melodrama of "Jane Lomax" has been in the ascendant; while at ASTLEY'S an entirely new and magnificent spectacle, in two acts, entitled "Corse de Leon, or the Brigand of Savoy," has been produced; founded on Mr. G. P. R. James's romance of the same name. The plot of this, as our readers know, is laid in the reign of Henry II. of France. *Lord Masseran* (Mr. Jackson) is the hero of the piece, from whose power *Corse de Leon* (Mr. Hicks), with his brigand band of horse and foot, rescues *Bernard de Rohan* (Mr. Crowther) and *Isabella de Brienne* (Miss E. Loveday). In like manner, through all their various dangers, the lovers are saved by the interposition of the brigands. The whole piece concludes with a tournament, and is throughout got up with great splendour and effect, the scenery being exceedingly picturesque.

FINANCIAL AND PARLIAMENTARY REFORM.—On Monday evening last a numerous and highly-respectable meeting of the inhabitants of Great Yarmouth was held at the Corn Exchange, in that place, for the purpose of establishing a branch of the National and Parliamentary and Financial Reform Association. Mr. C. Barber was called to the chair, and a series of resolutions, in accordance with the requisition, were adopted. At the close of the meeting, members were enrolled, and upwards of 120 were entered in less than an hour; besides which, several were compelled to leave without tickets, owing to the great number of applications to join the new branch society.

TIGRE ISLAND IN THE PACIFIC.—On the 16th of last October her Majesty's steam-sloop *Gorgon*, Commander Paynter, took possession of Tigre Island in the name of the Queen, in the consequence of the Honduras Government refusing to pay their just debts, and returned to the Commander-in-chief on the station, leaving a party of 46 officers and men on the island. Rear-Admiral Hornby, however, having disapproved of the steps taken by the commander, despatched the *Gorgon* from Callao on the 14th December last to Tigre Island, to embark the party, and to surrender the island.—*Hants Telegraph*.

Mr. Baxter, superintendent of the Wellington division of the Salop constabulary, has absconded. He was suddenly missed on the 23rd ult., and his whereabouts has not yet been discovered, although handbills have been circulated throughout the kingdom with a view to his apprehension. It is reported that his defalcations are heavy.

SPLENDID METEOR, SEEN ON MONDAY NIGHT.

We have been favoured with the following communications respecting this phenomenon:—

ROYAL POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION, Feb. 12, 1850.

Last evening I saw a most extraordinary meteor, of which I send you a sketch as it appeared over Hampstead. A straight black cloud extended from south to north, and the stars on either side of this cloud were unusually brilliant. When the phenomenon alluded to occurred, it issued forth from about S.W., and appeared to travel slowly in a direction about N.E. On its first emerging from its hiding-place it was a clear white light; about midway of its flight it assumed the brilliant yellow of the light produced in the combustion of sodium; and before it departed, its colour was of that peculiar pink colour of potassium when burning.

ROBERT LONGBOTTOM.

(We have engraved our Correspondent's sketch. The accompanying illustration is by a Correspondent who witnessed the phenomenon from the Fulham-road, looking towards Earl's Court and Kensington.)

Another Correspondent, writing from the Brompton Hospital for Consumption, says:—"The brilliant meteor which passed over the metropolis on Monday night had a singular effect on the numerous patients in the several wards of this hospital. It appeared to rise immediately at the back of the new chapel now erecting in connexion with the institution, and rushing over the hospital, diffused a light of the most fearful intensity. To those only slightly acquainted with meteorological phenomena the sight was alarming, but to the naturally timid the effect was most distressing. The shock was felt so severely by the matron of the establishment, that a severe fit of illness supervened, from which it is to be regretted that on Thursday she had scarcely recovered."

Royal Observatory, Greenwich, Feb. 14, 1850.

The fine Meteor of Monday night, Feb. 11, was seen by the Astronomer Royal, and he has given me permission to extract some particulars from his account of the meteor to send to you.

"On the night of Feb. 11 I was standing in the computing-room, with my eyes glancing downward to some papers on a table, when my attention was attracted to a general light of strong yellow colour upon that part of the sky which was seen through a window viewing the N.N.W. portion of the sky. I raised my eyes, and saw the sky fully illuminated; the form of the N.E. dome and the walls near it (which had been totally invisible before, and were totally invisible afterwards, from the room while my lamp was in it) were brought out not only distinctly but conspicuously—I think as well as if a large moon had been behind the dome; but the colour of the light was so different as to make comparison difficult. In an instant there came in the direction from W.S.W. to E.N.E. a brilliant body, like a Congreve rocket, followed by two others of less brilliancy close behind it (I cannot assert that there were not more than two) in the same path. The direction of their path was nearly horizontal, but slightly rising I think. It passed my field of view in less than 1½ second, which was very quickly dark as before. On going into the open air, I found that that part of the sky on the north, generally to the height of 30° or 40°, was star-light, and that there were stars visible overhead; but the south was clouded."

From the observations of the Astronomer Royal, it appears that at 10h. 41m. 28s. very nearly, the azimuth of the meteor was 17° W. of N. nearly, and at the same time its altitude was 20° nearly.

If any gentleman at distant parts of the country should have observed this meteor, I should be glad if he would furnish either the Astronomer Royal or myself with an account of its appearance, its path in the heavens, and time of appearance, &c.

JAMES GLAISHER.

BLAKENEY, Norfolk, Feb. 12, 1850.

As I was driving home last night, at twenty minutes to eleven, I saw a very large meteor under Orion's Belt, and midway between that and the horizon. Its appearance was instantaneous, and lasted about thirty seconds, emitting a most brilliant light, which had, at the period of its greatest intensity, a bluish tinge. So intense was the light that I was enabled to see the very smallest objects with perfect distinctness. The course of the meteor was from north to south, and it appeared to be not less than twenty feet in length, and contracted and expanded with the greatest rapidity, giving me the idea of an enormous flaming umbrella, which was open and shut alternately. The quarter of the sky in which it appeared was covered with black clouds.

CONSTANT READER.

LEAMINGTON, Feb. 12, 1850.

I beg to hand you a description of a beautiful meteor which I saw here last night. I saw it about 10 45 P.M. It burnt some time with a brilliant blue light, like a very large rocket star; when it had descended about half-way it appeared to go out, and then appeared like the falling stick of a rocket; it soon lit up again, and continued to burn brilliantly till out of sight. It appeared to bear about E.N.E., and fell nearly perpendicularly, a little inclining to the S.; it lasted for about five or six seconds. About three minutes afterwards I heard a report like a cannon at a great distance.

JOHN HERBERT.

A Correspondent of the *Wolverhampton Chronicle*, writing from Penn Fields, near Wolverhampton, says:—"Allow me to briefly notice the appearance last night (February 11), of a peculiarly large and brilliant meteor. After a stormy day of wind and rain, the latter ceased at sunset, but the former at the same

(Continued on page 120.)

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KING and CO. beg to announce that they will forward their SILK PATTERNS POSTAGE FREE to any part of the United Kingdom, India, or the Colonies. By this method adopted by King and Co., Ladies in the Country are offered the same advantages and facility in selecting their Walking, Evening, and Wedding Dresses as if residing in London.

Address, KING and CO., 243, Regent-street, London.

THE NEW FANCY STRIPED and CHECKED SILKS, at 18s 6d and 21s 6d the full dress. The Richest Qualities, at 25s the full dress. Patterns sent Post free. KING and CO., 243, Regent-street.

THE NEW GLACE SILKS, 3 WIDE, at 25s the full dress. The Richest French Glace Poul de Soies, 2 wide, at 37s 6d the full dress. Patterns sent Post free. KING and CO., 243, Regent-street.

THE NEW BROCADE POULT DE SOIES and Satins, at 35s the full dress. The Richest Qualities at 42s, usually sold at 70s. Patterns sent Post free. KING and CO., 243, Regent-street.

VERY RICH BLACK WATERED SILKS and Brocade Satins, 2 wide, at 37s the full dress. The Richest Qualities, at 50s the full dress. Rich Black Glace and Mourning Silks, at 25s the full dress. The Richest Qualities, at 37s 6d the full dress. Patterns sent Post free. KING and CO., 243, Regent-street.

THE NEW BROCADE POPLINS, at 21s 6d the full dress. Patterns sent Post free. KING and CO., 243, Regent-street.

FOUR PEIGNOIRS DU MATIN. The New French Printed Percales, at 6s the full dress. Athlone Dresses, at 12s. Broche Cane prices, at 18s 6d per dozen. The New Checked Challis for Children's Dresses, at 2s 6d per yard. Patterns sent Post free. KING and CO., 243, Regent-street.

FINE FRENCH CAMBRIC HANDKERCHIEFS, at 6s 6d per dozen. The Finest Qualities, at 12s. Fine Hem Stitches, at 18s 6d per dozen. The New Broche Vandyke Handkerchiefs, at 4s 9d each. Sample Handkerchiefs sent Postage free on receipt of 8, 13, 20, or 55 Postage Stamps. KING and CO., 243, Regent-street.

BONNETS.—PARISIAN MILLINERY.—To Cash Purchasers wishing to avoid the charges of private Milliners. Compare the following prices:—Parisian or Glace Silk Bonnets, all colours, Cap, &c., complete, 12s 9d to 16s 9d; Mourning Satin, or Ducape, richly trimmed, patent Cap, 10s 6d to 14s 6d; White or Black Lace, elegantly finished, 15s to 18s 6d; Arcophane Crapes, all colours, 12s 6d; Paris net, 14s 6d to 18s 6d; Paris (Chips) for Brides, One Guinea each; Fine Snow China, 8s 6d to 12s; White Bermuda Chips, 11s 6d to 15s; Dunstable White Straws, the new shape, 2s 11d to 3s 11d; Fine Rice Straws, 3s 11d to 5s 11d; Leghorn Hats, Prince of Wales shape, 3s 11d; very fine, at 5s 11d. More fashionable or more becoming Bonnets cannot be procured at any price; and the largest stock in London to select from, for Cash only, at Cranbourne House, No. 39, Cranbourne-street, Leicester-square.—Proprietors, A. WOOLLEY and Co.

Established in 1778. LADIES' READY-MADE LINEN, and WEDDING and GENERAL OUTFITS for HOME, INDIA, and the COLONIES, are supplied by JOHN CAPPER and SON, 69, Gracechurch-street, LONDON, in a Separate Department, under competent Female superintendence. The prices are economical, the materials and needlework excellent.

BABY LINEN, of superior work, decidedly cheap. Parcels of £3 sent throughout the Kingdom free of railway carriage. LISTS, with PRICES, sent POST-PAID to Ladies, on application.

ALPACA UMBRELLAS.—The economy, both in the cost and wear of this umbrella, has been fully borne out by the use and experience of the last two years, and which is testified by the very great patronage which continues to be bestowed upon it. It may be obtained of most umbrella dealers in the United Kingdom, from 10s. 6d.—W. and J. SANGSTER, 140, Regent-street; 91, Fleet-street; 10, Royal Exchange; 75, Cheapside.

SHIRTS at WHOLESALE PRICES.—The ordinary family SHIRT, when properly made, fits better, wears longer, and costs less, than any other kind. A choice of 600 dozen, from 2s to 6s 6d each, at J. RODGERS and SON, Tailors, Hosiery, and General Outfitters, 39 and 40, Chiswell-street, Finsbury.

FORD'S EUREKA SHIRTS.—Gentlemen desirous of obtaining Shirts in the very best manner in which they can be made, are solicited to try FORD'S EUREKA, the most unique, and the only perfect fitting shirt made. Detailed catalogues, containing lists of prices, and directions for self-measurement, sent post-free. Patterns of all the new coloured shirtings sent post-free, on receipt of six postage stamps.—Richard Ford, 155, Strand, London.

SHIRTS.—THE ZETETIC SHIRTS, Registered May 2, 1849, Act 6 & 7 Vic., c. 65.—They are the best fitting Shirts ever invented. Caution.—Every shirt is stamped. Price—Six or 30s; or 30s; or 30s. N.B. The Non-Registered Shirts are Six or 30s, 30s, and 30s. Also, all the new patterns in Coloured Shirts. Instructions for Self-Measurement, with List of Prices, sent post free. JAMES WATSON BLACKBURN, 47, Cheapside, London.

THE CORAZZA SHIRT.—CAPPER and WATERS, Inventors, 23, Regent-street, St. James's.—Gentlemen can have the Corazza, or any other form of shirt, by sending their measures, taken tight, round the neck, round the chest, round the waist, round the wrist, height of wearer.—Excellent Long Cloth Shirts, with fine Linen Fronts, Collars, and Wrist, at every price from 6s. to 12s. 6d. Sample Shirts 10s. to 25s. each. Additional charge for Dress Fronts, 2s. to 25s. Sample Shirts are sent, carriage paid, to any part of the Kingdom, on receipt of a m. m. order for the price of the Shirt, with addition of two shillings, which addition is deducted from the amount of the set.

BOND'S PERMANENT MARKING INK, the original and by far the best, requiring no preparation, offers the strongest means of protection for every article of household linen and wearing-apparel against loss or mistake, for which reason be careful to ask for the genuine article, prepared by the inventor, JOHN BOND, 28, Long-lane, West Smithfield, City. Sold by most chemists, stationers, and medicine vendors. Price 1s. a bottle.

BERDOE'S SUPERIOR LIGHT OVER-COAT, the WATERPROOF PALLIUM.—This well-known garment claims the attention of those who appreciate a genuine and respectable article at the lowest possible cost for such, and who require made up or the premises, and guaranteed to resist any amount of rain. Price 4s. and 50s. A very large stock, also, of first-rate OVER-COATS of all kinds. W. BERDOE, 96, New Bond-street, and 69, Cornhill (only).

THE NICOLL PALETOT (registered 6 & 7 Vic., c. 65) WAREHOUSES, 114, 116, 120, REGENT-STREET, and 22, CORNHILL. Many persons are in the habit of the word Paletot, but Messrs. NICOLL are the sole patentees of the design and material. The Wholesale and Counting-house Departments for the London branches in the Shipping and Woollen Trades are in Change-alley, CORNHILL, and 120, Regent-street.

The NICOLL distinguishing name given to a garment secured by Royal Letters Patent from general imitation. It has all the advantages of Messrs. NICOLL'S original invention, the REGISTERED PALETOT OF LLAMA CLOTH. The Nicoll Paletots are charged One, Two, Three, and Four and a half Guineas, according with the climate or purpose for which they may be required.

AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, CAPE of GOOD HOPE, NATAL, &c. PASSENGERS to the COLONIES, generally, may obtain their OUTFITS from S. W. SILVER and CO., CLOTHIERS, &c., 66 and 67, CORNHILL, at the wholesale prices. SILVER and CO. make nearly the whole of the articles comprised in the outfit to secure durability, so that the Cabin Folding Furniture may become permanent Household Furniture on arrival in the colony.

They also engage PAS-AGES, and give ship-sailing INFORMATION, but they neither receive nor pay a commission, their object being to give PASSENGERS who place themselves in their hands every benefit; and they forward small packages for their customers (gratis) through their AGENTS in the COLONIES.

SILVER and CO. give DRAFTS on AUSTRALIA, at sixty days' sight, of 110s for every £100 paid here.

The EMIGRANT Fitting-out Branch is at No. 4, BISHOPSGATE-STREET, opposite the London Tavern, where a comfortable fit-out, for male and female, including bedding, may be obtained for FOUR POUNDS.

A search of each at St. GEORGE'S-CRESCENT, LIVERPOOL.

TO LADIES.—ROWLAND'S KALYDOR for the Skin and Complexion, is unequalled for its rare and estimable qualities. The radiant bloom it imparts to the cheek, the softness and delicacy which it induces on the hands and arms, its capability of soothing irritations and removing cutaneous defects, discolorations, and all unsightly appearances, render it indispensable to every toilet. Its purifying and refreshing properties have obtained the patronage of Royal and aristocratic Courts, and the highest nobility.

Beware of spurious "Kalydors" for sale. The words "Rowland's Kalydor" are on the wrapper of the genuine article; and "A. ROWLAND and SON, 20, Hatton-garden," are also engraved on the Government Stamp affixed on each bottle. Price 4s 6d and 8s 6d. Sold by them, and by all respectable Chemists and Perfumers.

ARE you desirous of making a useful and elegant

Present?—If so, purchase one of F. MORLAND'S PRESENTATION GOLD PENS, which combine both qualities in the highest degree.—Sold by all respectable Jewellers and stationers.—Manufacture, 13, Goswell-road, London.

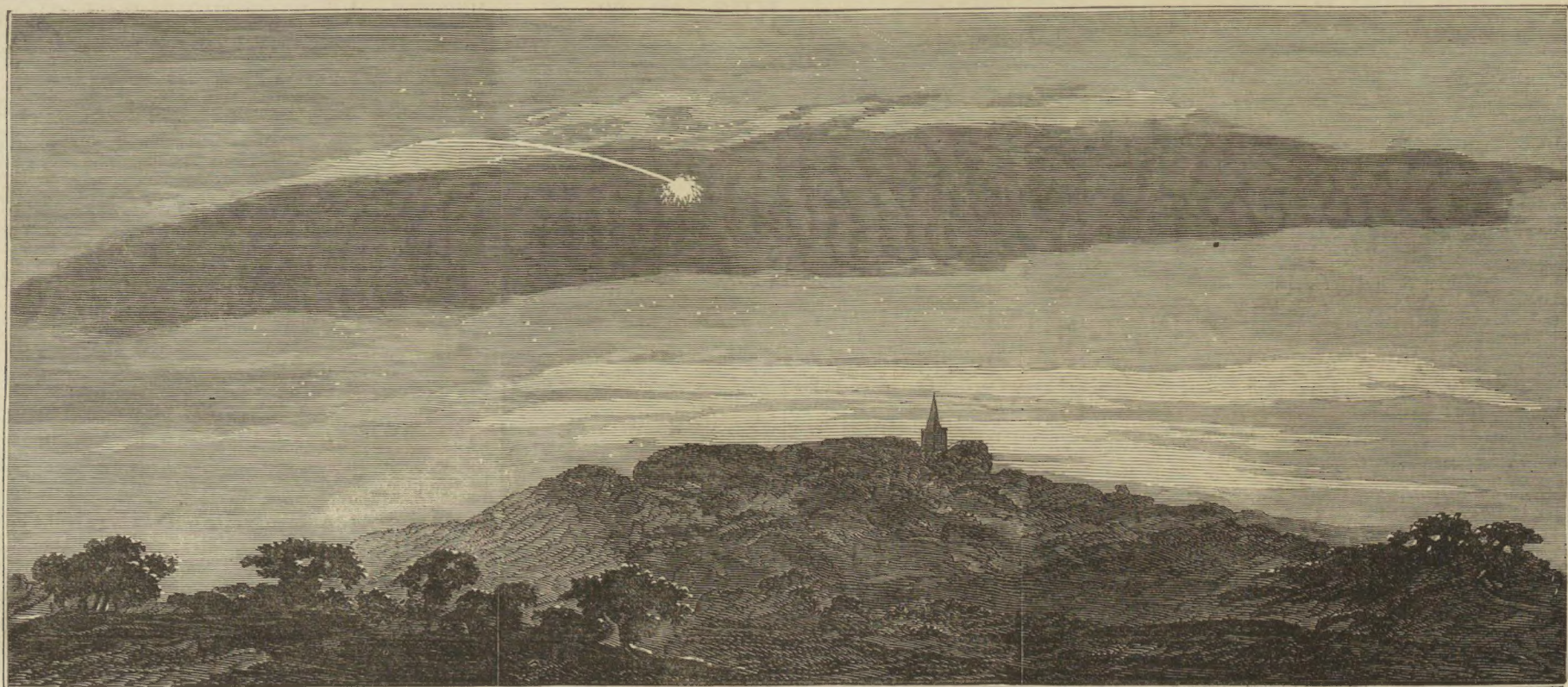
TRELOAR'S COCOA-NUT-FIBRE MATTING WARHOUSE, 42, Ludgate-hill.—There are many worthless imitations; but the best and one genuine fabric is that manufactured and sold by T. TRELOAR, 42, Ludgate-hill.

FULTON'S ESSENCE OF COFFEE should be tried by all who wish Coffee perfectly free from sediment, of a delicious flavour, and made ready without trouble. In Bottles, price 1s and 2s each. Sold by Grocers, Confectioners, and Chemists. Wholesale, from HENRY CARR, Agent, 8, St. Swirlin's-lane, London; or W. FULTON and Co., Glasgow.

STOUT and PORTER.—JENNER, WICK-ING, and JENNER are now delivering for Cash, to private families, their celebrated Porter at 1s., and Imperial Stout at 16s. per gallon. May be had in casks of 45, 9, 18, and 36 gallons.—N.B. Their Ales are now in very fine condition. South London Brewery, Southwark-bridge-road.

COCKERELL & CO.'S BEST COALS ONLY. Purfleet Wharf, Earl-street, Blackfriars; Eaton Wharf, Lower Belgrave-place, Fimlico; and No. 1, Coal Exchange. Cash price, 25s per ton.

FOUR FIRES FOR ONE PENNY, by EDWARDS'S PATENT FIREWOOD.—Sold by



THE METEOR OF MONDAY NIGHT (FEB. 11), AS SEEN NEAR HAMPSTEAD.

SPLENDID METEOR, SEEN ON MONDAY NIGHT.

(Continued from page 118.)

time increased for a short space, and then gradually lulled. The night became calm and clear, with a few clouds on the horizon, and the stars shone with remarkable brightness. At a little before eleven o'clock I was struck by the sudden appearance of a brilliant light resembling a continued gleam of lightning, but which, on looking up, I perceived to proceed from an elongated luminous ball, falling rapidly from the zenith towards the eastern horizon. It appeared like a mass of molten metal, but little smaller than the moon's disc, and comparatively at a short distance from my place of observation. The light

given off was intense, and rendered the whole landscape distinctly visible. When approaching the earth it seemed to burst, but without noise. A shower of luminous fragments, like red-hot stones, was discharged, or rather fell through, but were soon extinguished. The whole phenomenon was visible, as well as I could judge, for about sixty seconds. In general appearance it more resembled what is usually understood by a meteor, but its magnitude and apparent nearness was remarkable. Had it, however, exploded with detonation, I should have supposed it to be an aërolite."

I was an eye-witness of a splendid meteor on the night of Monday, the 11th inst., at 20 minutes to eleven o'clock. It first appeared like a star, about four

The buildings destroyed are, we are informed, except two cottages, fully insured. The poor labouring people, however, who have lost their furniture and clothing, have nothing to depend on but a subscription, which has been promptly entered into; and, for this purpose, the following appeal has been issued:—

ASHWELL.—It having pleased the Almighty to permit the destruction of a very large portion of this parish by fire, the charity of the Christian public is earnestly appealed to in behalf of the destitute and houseless sufferers. Six large farms, several small holdings, and about thirty houses are totally destroyed; and nearly two hundred persons thus deprived of their dwellings, and many of every article of furniture and clothing. Contributions, both in money and clothes, in relief of their urgent distress, will be thankfully received by Rev. Henry Morice, Vicar of Ashwell; Messrs. Hogge and Lindsell, Bank, Biggleswade and Baldock; Messrs. Fordham, Bank, Royston; Messrs. Sharples, Exton, and Lucas, Bank, Hitchin; Messrs. Barnett, Hoare, and Co., 62, Lombard-street, London; and Rev. J. Byng, Vicar of Langford, Henlow.

One gratifying incident occurs in the midst of the painful record of the conflagration. The dwelling of the minister of the Independent Chapel, together with his furniture, having fallen a prey to the flames, and not being insured, that gentleman has been invited to make a temporary home at the residence of the Reverend Incumbent belonging to the Church of England; and, generally, relief has been administered to the sufferers without regard to sect or party.

In confirmation of the statement that the fire was the work of an incendiary, it is related in the *County Press*, that Mr. Westrope, on going into his farm-yard, a short time since, found very near one of his ricks a piece of straw-plait, which had been lighted, and apparently thrust into the side of the rick, but had fallen out, and smouldered to extinction. This excited suspicion, and a watch had been nightly kept on the premises, up to the period of the conflagration, on the 2nd instant.

A CENTENARIAN.

AMIDST the present agitation for the sanitary improvement of the metropolis, it is gratifying to find, in one of the most thickly-peopled of its localities, a fine old Englishman who has just attained the age of one hundred years. Such is James Colman, the original of the above Portrait, who was born on Valentine's Day, 1750; and, accordingly, reached his hundredth year on Thursday last. The place of his birth was Church-court, Strand, in the parish of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, now swept away by the improvements in that locality. Colman has



MR. JAMES COLMAN, AGED 100, FEB. 14, 1850.

lived all his lifetime in the parish, and now dwells in the back-parlour of the house No. 58, Castle-street, Leicester-square. His wife is also alive, at the advanced age of eighty-six years; and both enjoy the use of all their faculties. The old man regularly attends Divine service at the parish church, without assistance; and was a communicant on the 3rd instant, when the Rev. Sir Henry Dukenfield, Bart., had the satisfaction to administer the Sacrament to him.

Colman was educated at Archbishop Tenison's school, in St. Martin's parish; and among the reminiscences of his boyhood is his having witnessed the funeral procession of King George the Second, in November, 1750. Colman was apprenticed to Mr. Sherborne, a writing engraver, then living at the house No. 2, Craven-street, Strand. Our Centenarian is much respected; he has been an abstemious man throughout his long life: he may say with trusty old Adam—

In my youth I never did apply
Hot and rebellious liquors in my blood.

The accompanying portrait is from a Daguerrotyp, taken on the 5th inst., when the old gentleman managed, without difficulty, to mount four flights of stairs, to sit for the process. It is an admirable likeness; and the features have a placid and benevolent expression, which is remarkably pleasant: the age is, in the words of the poet, "frosty, but kindly."

The Daguerrotyp has been taken at the expense of a gentleman who has known and respected Colman for six-and-thirty years; and who rightly considers this remarkable instance of longevity to be rendered doubly interesting by its exemplary association with habits of temperance and other characteristics of a well-spent life—the best assurance of a cheerful evening of rest unto the soul.

London: Printed and published at the Office, 198, Strand, in the Parish of St. Clement Danes, in the County of Middlesex, by WILLIAM LITTLE, 108, Strand, aforesaid.—SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1850.



THE METEOR, AS SEEN FROM THE FULHAM-ROAD.

times as large as Venus, with a dull golden lustre, and rapidly increased in brightness till it became a white light, resembling an immense diamond, and put forth a tail like a waving blade of red flame; as it proceeded, the tail either disappeared or was lost in the increased brightness of the head, which at last shone so brilliantly as to light up the whole atmosphere—the light certainly exceeded that of the full moon; it then became suddenly extinguished. It evidently displayed the process of combustion. I first saw it somewhere a little above the Pleiades, and it descended obliquely towards the north, and disappeared about the lower part of Cassiopeia. I think its greatest length was about 2°; the length of its visible path about 15° or 20°; and the time it was visible three or four seconds. I thought the last I saw of the meteor as the light vanished was a red spot, but it disappeared instantaneously. I looked round at

the clock directly it had disappeared, and it was exactly twenty minutes to eleven.
2, Bedford-place, Hampstead-road, Feb. 13th, 1850.
G. BOWLES, Jun.

THE LATE FIRE AT ASHWELL.

In our Journal of last week we recorded this calamitous event, on the 2nd instant, at Ashwell, near Royston. A Correspondent has favoured us with the accompanying Sketch of the ruins, which have been visited by many thousands of persons from Bedford, Cambridge, Hitchin, Baldock, Biggleswade, Royston, and the neighbourhood for many miles round.



RUINS OF THE RECENT FIRE AT ASHWELL.